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## REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRELIMINARIES IN IOWA—1859-1860.

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### 1. *The First Party Maneuvers in 1859.*

Victory in political contests, as in military operations, depends no less upon the possession of strategic points and the masterful use of the machinery and technique of procedure, than upon concourses of adherents. Inferior forces directed by masters of strategy and tactics are usually successful over preponderant numbers or mere masses unorganized or illy controlled and directed. Candidates or their friends and promoters realize these facts. They begin early to run out their lines, set their stakes, build their fences and hedge against rushes and surprises, to use the jargon of politicians. The leaders in charge of the machinery of the party may ally themselves with this or that wing or faction, or further the interests of a particular candidate; if there seems to be a fair prospect of success they then strive to have the machinery operate in his behalf. Or, they may perceive that the party's choice of a standard bearer is not a matter to be decided solely upon grounds of personal affiliations, or factional or sectional interests but, if victory is to be achieved, such choice must be determined upon considerations insuring the maximum efficiency of the party's forces in the aggregate. Complete alignment, certainty and unity of purpose, capacity for hearty co-operation, prompt co-ordination and concentration whereby a party's strength can be easily directed and hurled against the weak points of the Opposition, are the prerequisites of success. Premature action, however, is no less to be avoided than dilatory measures. The former create serious reactions inimical to candidates because the majority of a party are interested in causes rather than men, and hasty action, such as early rushes to capture caucuses or conventions, suggests "snap

judgments'' and seems to imply that the promoters of a candidate fear adverse results from full, fair and open discussion and deliberate decision.

(a) The Selection of Delegates Proposed.

It cannot now probably be definitely stated when the first maneuvers were instituted for securing the favor of Iowa's Republican leaders or determining the attitude of the party in respect of the presidential succession in 1860. There is some evidence, however, that both friends and promoters of candidates and also some of the party leaders of the State contemplated active measures early in 1859, with a view to controlling the action of Iowa at the national convention.

On March 26th an official call for a Republican state convention to meet in Des Moines, June 22d, was issued by the state central committee. The call, after stating the immediate specific purpose of the convention to be the nomination of candidates for various state offices to be elected at the ensuing election, included the further announcement that—"The convention will take such other action as may, in its opinion, contribute to the success of the principles and organization of the Republican party of this State and of the Union." Of the seven members of the committee signing the call, five were afterwards selected (or as alternates or proxies, acted) as delegates of the party at the Chicago convention. They were Mr. John A. Kasson, chairman, and Mr. H. M. Hoxie, both of Des Moines, Mr. N. J. Rusch of Davenport, Mr. R. L. B. Clarke of Mount Pleasant and Mr. Thomas Seeley of Guthrie Center.

Following within a week or so, word was apparently given out that it would be advisable for the approaching convention to select the delegates to the next national convention, for Mr. Palmer of the Dubuque *Times* observed: "The question has arisen among some of the leading Republicans whether the state convention . . . should not choose delegates to the next Republican national convention. If there is any purpose or any necessity of making the choice at that time, the party throughout the State should know it, that they may be represented accordingly."<sup>1</sup> The reception accorded the sug-

<sup>1</sup>Quoted in *The Muscatine Daily Journal*, April 26, 1859.



gestion was somewhat various. Mr. Mahin looked upon it with approval. "We think," he declares, "it would be a fit time to choose such delegates. The call, as published, confers the power on the convention, and as another state convention will not, in all probability, be held before the national convention, the opportunity ought to be improved for the appointment of delegates. Let us have a general expression from the Republican press on this subject, and let it be understood that delegates are to be appointed."<sup>1</sup> The proposition was given more or less approval, *The Cedar Valley Times* concurring with *The Journal*; but for the major part it encountered sharp disapproval.

Mr. Howell repelled the suggestion instantly. "The idea of electing delegates to the national convention," he declared, "ought not to be entertained for a moment. There is no propriety in doing so, nor is there the slightest necessity for such haste. It is highly probable that the national convention will meet at Wheeling on the 17th of June, 1860, and our state convention next year can very properly come off about the first of June, at which time candidates for state offices and delegates to the national convention, duly imbued with the sentiments and fully instructed as to the preferences of the Republicans of Iowa, can be selected."<sup>2</sup> *The Iowa City Republican* was likewise adverse. Mr. Jerome, the editor, pointed out that "the wish of the party [relative to the candidate] is now unknown. Twelve months hence it will find unanimous expression. The man will come with the hour. Let us wait for both."<sup>3</sup> Mr. Drummond reprinted the *Republican's* views as expressing his own.<sup>4</sup> Mr. Teesdale, while opposing the selection of delegates at the forthcoming Convention, put out the equivocal suggestion that it would be well "to give expression to the sentiment of the State at the time the delegates were selected." One is not certain whether a preliminary expression by the state convention in June was suggested or resolutions of instruction at the time the delegates were later selected was contemplated.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Muscatine Daily Journal*, April 26, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*The Gate City*, April 28, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*The Vinton Eagle* cites May 10, 1859. <sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup>*The Weekly Citizen*, May 11, 1859.

Opinion adverse to either selection of delegates or to an expression of the party's preference in the matter of a candidate was evidently pronounced, for no affirmative action was attempted on the floor of the convention hall at Iowa City, June 22d. Nevertheless we may suspect serious designs. The language of the call already quoted, clearly had some definite proceedings in view. About the same time a similar suggestion was being acted upon with vigor in Oregon. The Republicans of that territory in their convention, April 21, 1859, instructed their delegates, selected at the time for the national convention "to use their influence to secure the nomination of Hon. W. H. Seward of New York, as candidate for President; but in case they cannot secure his nomination, then further proceedings are left to their discretion."<sup>1</sup> Whether the action contemplated by the movers in Iowa was designed to enure to the benefit of Bates or Seward or Cameron we perhaps cannot determine. Nevertheless the friends and promoters of those candidates were already instituting measures to secure the favor and active aid of party leaders in various sections of the country. Taking the personnel of the state central committee as a basis for judgment we may surmise that the design of the movement was favorable to the candidacy of Mr. Bates. Mr. Jerome, one of the signers, as we have seen, was opposed to action. Mr. Clarke, an ardent anti-slavery advocate, almost, if not an out-and-out abolitionist, was one of the staunch Seward men at Chicago the following year. Messrs. Kasson, Hoxie and Seeley were probably favorable to Mr. Bates, rather than Mr. Seward; and Mr. Rusch because of his relations with Mr. Kasson would doubtless have concurred with the colleagues just named; at least Messrs. Kasson and Hoxie gave their votes to Mr. Bates on the first ballot at Chicago.

<sup>1</sup>*The Oregon Statesman*, April 26, 1859. The writer is indebted to Mr. George H. Himes, Assistant Secretary and Curator of the Oregon Historical Society of Portland, for the citation above respecting the action of the Republicans of Oregon in 1859.

In view of the instructions given the Oregon delegates, it is interesting that on the first and second ballots in the Convention, Oregon's five votes were cast for Bates, and on the third, four went to Lincoln and one to Seward. See *N. Y. Herald*, May 19, 1860; or *N. Y. Tribune* (s. w.), May 22, 1860.



## (b) The Choice of the Convention City and Its Significance.

Meanwhile another maneuver was in progress that was not without influence in determining the party's choice at Chicago. For some time public spirited citizens in the larger cities of the west had been looking with designing eyes upon the members of the Republican national committee and making plans to secure its decision to hold the next national convention in their respective cities. The national Democratic convention in 1856 was held at Cincinnati; and citizens of Wheeling, Indianapolis, Chicago and St. Louis entertained lusty hopes of securing the Republican convention in 1860. From Mr. Howell's assertion previously quoted, it seems that Wheeling was generally accorded the presumption of the selection, but, as the event proved, without warrant. For the most part, of course, the motives animating those seeking the committee's favorable action were the issue of ordinary communal desires to enhance local fame and enjoy the eclat of such national gatherings. But other motives in other minds were probably the decisive factors in determining the selection of the convention city.

Environment is a condition, if not a determinant, of achievement in politics. Local influences may play a conspicuous and on occasion a vital part in the decisions of conventions. The location of the city wherein they are held, if remote from centers of population or difficult of access, may prevent many influential leaders and important elements participating in their deliberations, and thus seriously affect decisions. Moreover, the influences of a community, always numerous, omnipresent and vocal, sometimes subtle and subterranean, under the direction of alert, aggressive and intelligent leaders are often most potent in making things come to pass. They are not always decisive—are seldom the chief factors—unless other forces and considerations are evenly balanced; then local influences when concentrated and co-ordinated may force the tilt of the beam and decide the result.

Any one familiar with the ways of practical politicians to-day need not be told how carefully such matters are attended to by party leaders in closely contested political battles. We

may fairly presume that politicians fifty years ago were no less alert to such considerations. The friends and promoters of Chase, McLean and Wade, of Bates and Lincoln would naturally prefer to have the convention held west of the Alleghenies at or nearest the seat of their local fame and influence. If we could obtain access to their correspondence, or that of their managers or of the party chiefs in Iowa, we should doubtless find that the political effect of the locus of the convention was seriously canvassed. One of President Lincoln's most distinguished biographers tells us that the selection of the convention city was not made until February, 1860, and that the maneuver effecting the decision in favor of Chicago was the work of Norman P. Judd, member of the national committee from Illinois; and further, that the importance of the maneuver was realized by "no one except the Illinois politicians."<sup>1</sup> There are grounds for doubting the correctness of these assertions.

In the latter part of August, 1859, Senator James Harlan, then at his home in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, received a letter from Mr. John D. DeFrees of Indianapolis, Indiana. His correspondent was a man of considerable influence among the "Hoosiers." For many years he had been one of the leading editors of that state. At the time he was chairman of the Republican state central committee and was on the eve of starting a new Republican paper (*The Daily Atlas*);—a man,

<sup>1</sup>Miss Ida M. Tarbell, *Life of Abraham Lincoln*, Vol. I, p. 339.

The passage in which the assertion is made is the following:—"February 16, 1860, 'The Tribune' came out editorially for Lincoln, and Medill followed a few days later with a ringing letter from Washington, naming Lincoln as a candidate on whom both conservative and radical sentiment could unite. About the time when Medill was writing thus, Norman P. Judd, as member of the Republican National Committee, was executing a maneuver the importance of which no one realized but the Illinois politicians. This was securing the convention for Chicago."

One of Mr. Lincoln's confreres, and later one of his biographers, Mr. W. C. Whitney, also gives the entire credit for securing the convention at Chicago to Mr. Judd. With some error he declares that all conventions had theretofore been held in the east and that Mr. Judd made the "novel proposition in the committee that the convention should be held at Chicago. He argued that the Democrats had departed from the ancient custom of meeting at Baltimore, and were to meet at Charleston; now, argued he, let us follow their example and meet in a region where we can make proselytes by the respect we pay to that region. He carefully kept "Old Abe" out of sight, and the delegates failed to see any personal bearing the place of meeting was to have on the nomination. Judd carried his point. He was a railway lawyer and he approached the various railway companies whose lines were in Illinois, and persuaded them, to make very cheap rates of fare to Chicago during the convention week." *Lincoln The Citizen*, pp. 284-5: Works of Abraham Lincoln, Vol. I (edited by Miller).



we are told, who was regarded by Clay and Crittenden, Webster and Corwin as a very "adroit politician."<sup>1</sup> After referring to his new editorial duties and his purpose to advocate and pursue a moderate or "conservative" policy relative to national politics he says:

While I shall not war publicly on the extreme ground occupied by some of our friends, I know that Indiana cannot be carried on these grounds and hence the conservative spirit of my paper. I have been battling Democracy in all its infernal phases, for more than thirty years and I want to see it crushed out before I die. It can not be done (in my opinion) if ultra men are permitted to dictate our policy, and name our candidate.

As I suggested to you when we rode on the cars together, it would be a good move to get the national convention held out West somewhere (Indianapolis if you please) so as to be out of the outside influence always created anywhere in the neighborhood of New York—Gov. Lowe of your State, is one of the committee to fix time and place. Please talk with him on this subject.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. DeFrees' letter reflects a concern lest radicalism should seize the rank and file and force the nomination of an extremist for President who would work the party's defeat in the doubtful states—a concern that one discovers to be pronounced among all the old party wheelhorses in those states. This dread manifested itself in 1859 and 1860 in earnest pleas and in plans for an "Anti-Seward" program rather than in direct, insistent, systematic efforts to push the nomination of a "favorite son" or the favorite of a faction or of a section. Indiana had no candidate, but her population was for the most part composed of people of southern antecedents, affiliations and sympathies (Mr. DeFrees was himself a Tennessean) and the *ultra* notions of the anti-slavery propagandists were received by them with but little favor. Idealistic sentiment, that prompts a party to plunge ahead of the traditions and common sense of the people, or to run counter to popular prejudices, is a rock of offense and not a force making for success. It is clear from Mr. DeFrees' letter that the opponents of Governor Seward must have been canvassing the ad-

<sup>1</sup>Appleton's *Cyclopedia of American Biography*, Vol. II, p. 124.

<sup>2</sup>James Harlan, *Autobiographical Manuscript*, p. 3043. For permission to cite and use the letter above the writer is indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Robert T. Lincoln of Chicago, and to Dr. B. F. Shambaugh of the State Historical Society of Iowa, and Mr. Johnson Brigham, State Librarian, the latter having the manuscript in their custody.

visability of securing the convention in a western city some time prior to the date of his letter. The significance of his attitude and the importance of the maneuver in contemplation, are effectively stated by Senator Harlan himself, who, on rereading it some thirty-five years later, made the following comment: “. . . He, as he says, was an Old School Whig prior to the organization of the Republican party, and as sternly opposed to every thing bordering on ‘abolitionism’ as the slave-holding element of the Southern States. So were nearly all of the leaders of the Republican party in Indiana. And he and they had already commenced to put up fortifications against the possible nomination of Wm. H. Seward, as the Republican candidate for President in 1860. And Mr. Seward was probably defeated by this influence in the national convention; supplemented, of course, by sympathizers from other western States.”<sup>1</sup>

The national committee had the matter of the selection of the convention city under advisement for a considerable time. In April the citizens of Wheeling presented a memorial to the committee seeking a decision favorable to that city.<sup>2</sup> On May 25th, the committee met at Albany, New York, and although some twenty members were present, no decision as to time and place could be reached. The report made via the dispatches read—“The proceedings are strictly private but it is thought the decision will be in favor of holding the convention at St. Louis, Mo., or some other place in Virginia.”<sup>3</sup> Evidently at that time, either representatives of the west or anti-Seward members outnumbered the Seward members of the committee. The matter hung fire for some time. In the latter part of the year the subject was “agitated in different localities,” St. Louis, Chicago and Indianapolis being “the most prominent places named.”<sup>4</sup> The press in Iowa does not appear to have paid much attention to the question. One editor, however, expressed a decided preference. Mr. Jerome declared in favor of Chicago as his first choice, of St. Louis as his second and of

<sup>1</sup>*Ib.* p. 3049. For the prominent part played by Mr. DeFrees at the Chicago Convention see McClure's *Our Presidents*, etc., pp. 155-156.

<sup>2</sup>*The Express and Herald* (Dubuque), April 19, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*The Daily Hawk-Eye*, May 26, 1859.

<sup>4</sup>*St. Charles Intelligencer*, Dec. 15, 1859.



Indianapolis as his third choice.<sup>1</sup> The decision was not made until December 22d following. The committee met in New York City. The part taken by Iowa in the meeting is not certain. Governor Lowe had ceased to be a member. His place had been filled by Mr. Andrew J. Stevens, a banker and broker of Des Moines, who was then or later, an advocate of Governor Seward's nomination. At the time of the meeting of the committee he could not attend, his proxy and vote being held and exercised by Senator J. R. Doolittle of Wisconsin.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Judd of Illinois concurred naturally in the action of the committee and he was no doubt one of the effective promoters of the movement making for the decision, but it would appear that he was only one of many conspiring to secure the benefit of local environment adverse to the candidacy of the Senator from New York.

The contrariety of minds relative to the significance of the action of the committee is illustrated in an interesting and significant fashion in the editorial comments of two editors of opposite political faith. Mr. Jerome of Iowa City expressed himself as follows: “. . . we think it eminently fit that a city which has maintained her republicanism amidst such opposition, ‘bearding the Douglas in his den,’ richly deserves this flattering testimonial. Chicago herself is a true type and representative of the already great and growing Republican party . . . She is emphatically a *free* city. Her merchants are not satellites and flunkeys—they do not, as Philadelphia and some other cities have done, propose to sell their principles with their goods. Political auctions have not, and we trust never will, come into vogue with her people.”<sup>3</sup> The work of Douglas' opponent evidently was the matter in mind. Mr. F. M. Zieback of Sioux City observed: “The selection of this hotbed of abolitionism as the place for holding their convention will not do much towards enhancing the prospect of Republicanism among the more conservative portion of the party. It is a stroke of policy, however, on the part of the friends of Lincoln which will doubtless place him upon the

<sup>1</sup>*Iowa City Weekly Republican*, Dec. 7, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*N. Y. Tribune* (s. w.), Dec. 23, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*Iowa Weekly Republican*, December 28, 1859.

ticket for Vice-President."<sup>1</sup> Clearly up in the farthestmost corner of the State, Abraham Lincoln was not "an Unknown," nor was he regarded as a negligible quantity in the political contest then approaching its crisis. The significance of Mr. Zieback's comment is not lessened by the fact that he was a Democrat.

(c) Call for the Special State Convention.

Meantime, about two weeks preceding the determination of the date and place for holding the national Republican convention a call was issued December 5, by the state central committee, for a special Republican state convention to be held in Des Moines, January 18, 1860, to choose delegates to the national convention. The matter was under consideration during November, Mr. Hildreth, a member of the committee, tells us.<sup>2</sup> Mr. John A. Kasson who, as chairman, signed the call, says therein that it was issued in "accordance with the general expression of public sentiment." The justification for the assembly so many months before the national convention was put upon two grounds. First the national convention "would be held at a much earlier date than is usually appointed for calling a state convention for the nomination of state officers," and second, it was "most convenient to procure a general representation of counties during the session of the legislature."<sup>3</sup>

As the Republicans of nearly all of the northern or free states did not call their state conventions until the next year was well advanced toward the date set for the national convention, one cannot repress some curiosity respecting the real reasons for not thus waiting in this instance. The postponement for two months would still have enabled members of the state legislature to serve as delegates from their respective counties. There is more than the shadow of a reason for thinking that another consideration besides the selection of delegates to the Chicago convention might have been in the minds of some of the members of the state central committee

<sup>1</sup>*The Register*, Dec. 31, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*St. Charles Intelligencer*, Nov. 24, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*Ib.*, Dec. 22, 1859.



when they concurred in calling the special convention for January 18th.

The term of Iowa's senior Senator, James Harlan, was about expiring. His successor was to be chosen by the legislature which was to convene in Des Moines, January 9. Senator Harlan desired re-election and his renomination by his party was generally assumed and conceded. Nevertheless, there were sundry, and not a few either, who did not favor his re-election enthusiastically. Some, perhaps, because of personal reasons, such as discontent with his course at Washington: some because of his "locality"—his home Mt. Pleasant was a short distance from Burlington, the home of his colleague, James W. Grimes: some because they were not unwilling to succeed him if chance might offer. Senator Harlan's friends in various parts of the State detected signs of attempts at the furtherance of the senatorial ambition of some of the party leaders and in some anxiety warned him of the fact.<sup>1</sup> In the middle of December political circles were stirred by an editorial in *The Nonpareil* of Council Bluffs in which Mr. Maynard plumply protested against the assumption that Mr. Harlan had any claim to be his own successor that the party or the people were in honor bound to recognize; rather, the members of the general assembly should canvass men regardless of particular services or sacrifices and select the best man. Mr. Dunham of *The Daily Hawk-Eye* endorsed the sentiments with considerable emphasis.<sup>2</sup>

If there was any design adverse to Senator Harlan's re-election to the national Senate in the date fixed for the state convention it was conceived in the hope that the concurrence of the convention with the opening of the general assembly might produce a situation favorable to serious disturbances in the alignment of the Senator's forces. The selection of the speaker of the lower house engenders frequently intense feeling among the rival aspirants. The assignment of members to committees in the respective houses and the appointment of the various clerks and state officers by the legislative caucus, often produces furious animosities and the acids

<sup>1</sup>Autobiographical MSS.

<sup>2</sup>*The Daily Hawk-Eye*, Dec. 26, 1859.

of disappointed hopes may cause all sorts of reactionary movements whereby enemies and rivals may secure benefits. If such hopes were indulged the desire of many to attend the national convention at Chicago as delegates would increase the trading stock of those who sought thus to manipulate the situation. Whatever the design might have been it was futile, for Senator Harlan was re-elected without dissent from his own party workers.

The call for the convention elicited but a few comments or suggestions. Indeed one is likely to suffer from surprise at the general indifference and non-attention to the work it was designed to accomplish. Sundry facts may explain the popular inattention. Congress met for the most momentous session in its history. The President's message contained references and recommendations that were as firebrands thrown into a tinder box. The deadlock over the election of the Speaker, the hubbub created by congressional endorsement of Helper's *Impending Crisis*, and the denunciation and recrimination resulting from the attack on Harper's Ferry—all these matters and others absorbed public attention to the exclusion of most local matters. There were, however, a few expressions worth noting, for they illustrate again with force and point the general attitude urged by prudent party leaders as the appropriate course for the party to pursue in selecting its representatives, and their proper procedure in selecting the party's standard bearer for the campaign to ensue.

Mr. Teesdale briefly commends the date fixed for the convention for the reason assigned in the call and emphasizes the urgent need for a large representation from all counties so that the "true sentiment of the State" may be faithfully reflected by the men selected to go to Chicago. He asserts that "nothing but the wildest imprudence and folly on the part of the Republican national convention, can prevent the election of a Republican President and Vice-President in 1860. In order to insure wise action in the national body, the action of the state body must be judicious and wise; the success of the cause being the paramount consideration."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Iowa Weekly Citizen*, Dec. 14, 1859.



From one newspaper not heretofore cited came an editorial worthy particular attention for its significance and suggestions. Among the accessions to the ranks of the Republican party in the campaign of 1859 was Mr. Henry P. Scholte of Pella, the city founded in 1846 under his guidance by a body of Dutch Pilgrims, emigrants from Holland because of religious persecution. Although not always dominant in its communal life he was until his death unquestionably its most influential citizen. On coming to this country his antagonism to strong central government caused him to affiliate with the Democratic party. Its attitude toward foreigners further encouraged him. On the subject of Slavery he was a stout opponent of the system, but followed Henry Clay in maintaining the rights of owners of slaves against the attacks of abolitionists.<sup>1</sup> The repeal of the Missouri Compromise and the Kansas-Nebraska bill distressed him greatly but he did not join the Republicans in 1856 because of the "impression that Know-Nothingism and Abolitionism were the predominant consideration in its councils."<sup>2</sup> The scandal in connection with the Lecompton constitution in Kansas was too much for him and he joined the Republicans in the spring or early summer of 1859. His change of party faith made a considerable disturbance because of his great influence in Pella where he had long guided the majority in political discussion by means of *The Pella Gazette*, which he both published and edited.<sup>3</sup> On reading the call for the special convention he expressed himself in the following editorial entitled "Presidential Candidates":

Several states will present candidates for President and Vice-President at the next national Republican convention. We have no doubt but the Republicans of Iowa will heartily sustain the nominees of that convention. Iowa will send her delegates, but has not, at present, to propose one of her sons as a candidate. We think it, therefore, not expedient for Republican papers in Iowa to propose,

<sup>1</sup>*American Slavery in reference to the Present Agitation in the United States By an Adopted Citizen.* This rare and interesting book consists of editorials on the subject written by Mr. Scholte for *The Pella Gazette* between June 7, 1855, and November 8, 1856. The writer is under obligations to Hon. Henry L. Bousquet, Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Mr. Henry Scholte of Pella for the privilege of examining both the book and the files of *The Gazette*.

<sup>2</sup>*The Pella Gazette*, August 10, 1859.

<sup>3</sup>*Ib.*, Dec. 14, 1859.

at present, any name as their particular choice, but at least wait till we have had our state convention to elect delegates to the national convention. Should our state convention deem it proper and necessary to instruct their delegates to go for any one of the main candidates then there will be some propriety in the Republican papers advocating the claims of such candidates. But, if on the contrary, our state convention deems it proper not to give such instructions but give to the delegates power to cast their vote in the national convention for such candidates as they shall there discover to be the strongest men, we think it best then for the Republican papers in Iowa to await the national convention, and when the nomination is there perfected to hoist the names of those candidates at the head of their column and then work faithfully and earnestly till we have gained the victory next November. We consider such a course best for the Republican party and for the candidates nominated at the national convention.

Here again we have prudence urging cautious and conservative conduct. Politics is an eminently practical matter. Success depends no less upon rapid adjustments to conditions than upon the possession of forces and supporters: and conditions are usually confused and confusing, shifting with kaleidoscopic facility and profusion. The editorial has added interest from the fact that the convention soon to convene at Des Moines selected Mr. Scholte as one of the party's delegates at large to the national convention; and his course fulfilled his own advice.

This narrative of developments in 1859 may fittingly close with an excerpt from one of Iowa's great party leaders to another party chieftain then about to enter upon a distinguished career in our State and national history—both men masters of the tactics and strategy of politics. The letter was written to Governor-elect Kirkwood by Senator James W. Grimes, and was dated at Washington, D. C., December 26, 1859. It aptly and adequately reflects and summarizes the attitude of the party leaders and of the rank and file of the Republican party in Iowa towards the nomination of their candidate for President.

DEAR KIRKWOOD:

The State Convention soon assembles to appoint delegates to the Chicago convention. Do not let the delegates be instructed and



send men who are not mere traders in politics. You ought to be one of the delegates and I hope you will see to it that you are appointed. I would select a goodly number to cast the vote of Iowa.

If you appoint electors I would suggest Samuel Miller of Keokuk and Wilson of Fairfield. They are both efficient canvassers and would help our congressional and state candidates a good deal. We must have a thorough canvass of the State next year and bring our majority up to six or eight thousand. Have good men appointed delegates and have them divided fairly between old Whigs and old Democrats, and entirely uncommitted to any man or men, who will try to nominate for the good of the party and not for the benefit of themselves.

Yours,

JAMES W. GRIMES.<sup>1</sup>

The Samuel Miller referred to was Samuel F. Miller afterwards appointed by President Lincoln Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The "Wilson of Fairfield" was James F. Wilson, then rapidly rising in state fame in the state legislature, who as one of Iowa's delegates at the Chicago convention, worked from first to last for the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for President and afterwards had a distinguished career in both houses of Congress.

<sup>1</sup>*Correspondence of Gov. Sam'l J. Kirkwood* in Aldrich Collection, in Historical Department of Iowa at Des Moines.

Those familiar with the history of Iowa and of Congress will appreciate the warrant for Senator Grimes' assertion that Mr. Jas. F. Wilson was an "efficient" canvasser; but few will realize its fitness in the case of Mr. Samuel F. Miller. All chroniclers refer to his reputation as a cogent and powerful pleader at the bar of his county and of the Supreme Court of Iowa; but no one refers, so far as the writer knows, to his strength in the popular forum. Inquiry of General John W. Noble of St. Louis, who practiced in the same courts with Mr. Miller from 1855 to 1862 elicited the information that in public debate "he was superbly aggressive both in argument and in gesture and voice; and he flinched not at any conclusion to which his premises logically lead him." In the campaign of 1860 he threw himself with "that energy and intellectual force of which he possessed so much, and he was as daring a leader in debate as he would have been in a cavalry charge. . . ." General Noble then relates Mr. Miller's discussion with Judge J. M. Love at Keokuk of the issues of that campaign and the fears of Disunion in case Mr. Lincoln was elected and the dramatic and thrilling rejoinder of Mr. Miller, particularly when, with intense feeling, he said, "Sir, if these principles when duly adopted by the people of the United States, because distasteful to a minority, whether North or South, may lead to conflict of arms, I, for one, will abide the issue. I, for one, would rather see, if see I must, bayonets crossed over the ballot box, than not to have the ballot's decree carried into effect, even by the whole force of my country's power." The effect was "electric." Letter of General John W. Noble to the writer, St. Louis, Mo., February 17, 1910.

## 2. *The First Party Decision in 1860.*

When Iowans began their reckonings in January, 1860, the surface of the waters exhibited but few signs of strenuous activity in state or national politics. There was no uproar, and no general fuss, as the forces and factors contending for power and places were not concentrating sufficiently so that partisan passions and factional prejudices upheaved in foam and fury; but here and there commotion was considerable, for the currents were running with vigor. We must appreciate somewhat the nature, velocity and momentum of the major currents in order to realize the conditions under which the Republicans of Iowa made their first substantial decision in determining their attitude towards party principles, procedure and candidates in the presidential contest of 1860.

### (a) *Contrary Considerations Affecting Party Interests.*

The Legislature of Iowa was due to assemble at Des Moines in regular session, January 9th, and all classes contemplated its sessions with miscellaneous hopes and fears—all parties conceded that it would be one of the “most important sessions ever held in this state.”<sup>1</sup> The Republicans had complete possession of all the offices of the State, executive, judicial and legislative. Their leaders represented the State in both houses of Congress. They held their supremacy by a narrow margin, however, the campaign of 1859 taxing their strength to the uttermost. The problems and perplexities of the party leaders when the chiefs began to ingather at the state capital for the inauguration of Governor-elect Samuel J. Kirkwood, were numerous and pressing.

The friends and guardians of the “Maine” law, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating beverages, were greatly incensed at the progressive imbecility in its administration, due to the insertion of “wine and beer” clauses and the elastic interpretations of “mechanical, medicinal and sacramental” purposes in the law’s exemptions. They insisted upon drastic strengthening, while the enemies of the law—the Germans

<sup>1</sup>*The Dubuque Herald*, January 4, 1860.



preeminently—belligerently demanded radical relief from its irksome provisions. The foreign born in the State—and here again the Germans chiefly—were uneasy and exhibited a bellicose temperament. Both the outgoing Governor in his message and the incoming Governor in his inaugural address urged the passage of a “Registry Law” which all knew would mainly and immediately affect aliens adversely, and they, mindful of the “Two Year Amendment” in Massachusetts in 1859, were very suspicious and insistent upon marked consideration. The situation was more forcefully than politely described in the reported remark of a Republican editor, who said: “To get an office at the hands of the Legislature, a man must be born again—born in Germany by G——!”<sup>1</sup>

But for the most part, anxieties and ambitions anent finance and commerce animated the public mind. Industry after much blood-letting, was recovering with painful slowness from the severe depression following in the wake of the panic of 1857, the worst effects of which were not felt in Iowa until 1859.<sup>2</sup> Resulting in considerable measure therefrom, the finances of the State were in a bad way. Public accounts in city, county and state administrations were generally in sorry confusion and charges of malversation and misappropriation were common. The school funds of the State were particularly thus affected—interest thereon to the amount of \$120,000—an enormous amount at that time—being in default at the time Governor Lowe sent in his message to the Legislature, January 10th. The State, county and city treasuries were all seriously embarrassed by deficits due to delinquent taxes and local discussion was highly charged with the bitter animosities issuing from “tax sales” and resulting ouster of delinquents. But banks and railroads engaged the major interests of the public.

From 1838 to 1858, Iowa had virtually denied herself banks of note issue. The inconvenience and distress resulting secured a constitutional amendment in 1857 that permitted the establishment of the State Bank of Iowa in 1858. Its organization,

<sup>1</sup>*Daily Iowa State Journal*, January 16, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>Gov. R. P. Lowe, *Message to Senate and House of Representatives*, January 10, 1860.

or rather the organization of its branches, progressed amidst some misadventure that was greatly magnified by reason of the general industrial depression. Just when business was getting righted, commercial confidence, particularly in eastern central Iowa, suffered a violent shock on December 16, 1859, from the failure of a prominent banking house of Davenport. That institution was the chief sponsor of the notes of a notorious "wild cat" bank located at Florence, Nebraska—one of the members of the firm being a director of the branch of the State Bank at Davenport.<sup>1</sup> Then, as now, private bankers were alert and aggressive in furthering their interests and their secret caucuses aroused popular prejudices.<sup>2</sup> Cries of "monopoly" and broad hints of fell designs among the money changers and "note shavers" were common, and these gained much credence among the discontented when Governor Lowe in his message, declared his hostility to "Free Banks," and recommended that the notes of the State Bank be made legal tender for taxes and its branches fiscal agents of the State and counties.

Railroads, however, comprised the greatest complex of interests that induced the public to concentrate its attention upon the Legislature in January, 1860. Then as now, these powerful agencies stirred the animosities and ambitions of politicians and public alike, for their promoters had to appeal to and utilize the law and ordinance making and taxing bodies of the State. In previous years railroad projects had been promoted with feverish and reckless haste. Counties and cities had run riot in authorizing bond issues and tax levies for railroads. Charges of corrupt practices in connection therewith were not infrequent. In 1856 extensive land grants had been given four companies to expedite the completion of projected lines. They failed to fulfill their promises. Popular expectations were sadly disappointed and public discussion was rife with demands for the annulment of the contracts and the cancellation of the grants. The dissatisfaction became so resentful that repudiation, or attempts thereat, became common and innumerable lawsuits were instituted to

<sup>1</sup>*Davenport Gazette*, cited in *The Gate City*, December 23, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*The Dubuque Herald*, January 11, 1860.

enforce or to enjoin the issue of bonds or the spreading and collection of tax levies in aid of railroads. In December, 1859, the Supreme Court of Iowa declared invalid a bond issue of Scott county wherein Davenport is situate.<sup>1</sup> Nevertheless, many communities ardently sought railroad connections and strove to secure the forfeited grants of the defaulting companies, and the holders of their stocks and bonds naturally desired to realize something from their holdings. All parties—protesting taxpayers and railroad builders—looked to the General Assembly for relief.<sup>2</sup> Rumors were soon afloat that railroad promoters expected to “send down to Des Moines this winter a strong ‘lobby’ of hired ‘constitutional lawyers’ for the purpose of operating upon the Legislature.”<sup>3</sup> Mr. J. B. Grinnell, himself an ardent promoter of railroad enterprises in those days, wrote the *St. Louis Republican*, a week or so before the General Assembly met that “the State Aid question promises to arise in Iowa at the meeting of the Legislature,” an assertion that aroused adverse suspicion and inquiries, “Who are the managers? Whose plan is to be followed?”<sup>4</sup>

With local conditions thus exceedingly difficult for political leaders either to control easily or to deal with safely, the atmosphere was made electric by sundry matters of national moment that then crowded to the fore. Iowa and Iowans were more closely connected with John Brown’s raid into Virginia and his attack on Harper’s Ferry than either law or ethics justified. The villages of Tabor and Springdale had been rendezvous for his band prior to the foray. At least three

<sup>1</sup>*Stokes v. County of Scott*, 10 Ia. Sup. Ct. Reports, 166.

<sup>2</sup>The intense feelings and subterranean currents are suggested in a series of resolutions adopted at Nevada, in Story county, at a Mass Convention of the citizens of that county, January 7th, in which the failure of the Iowa Central Air Line to complete its contract is denounced, the ability and intentions of the Dubuque, Marion and Western R. R. Co. are denied, and the Cedar Rapids and Missouri R. R. Co. is commended to the Legislature and the transfer thereto of the land grants asked. The latter road enjoyed their confidence “backed, as it is, by two powerful railroad organizations, and composed of our own citizens, in connection with eastern capitalists, who have already built, without any aid from the government, the longest line of railroad in the State.” The convention by the same resolutions “instructed” their Senator and Representative in the Legislature “to use all honorable means to secure” the desired transfer of the land grant in question. (*Daily Iowa State Journal*, January 14, 1860.)

<sup>3</sup>*Dubuque Herald*, November 20, 1859.

<sup>4</sup>The *Daily Iowa State Journal*, January 9, 1860. Mr. Grinnell was a Director of the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad (or the old M. & M. R. R., more probably) prior to 1860; at least the position he tells us, was tendered him by Mr. Henry Farnam, then President of the Company.—*Men and Events of Forty Years*, 298.



Iowans, Jeremiah Anderson, Brown's "faithful henchman,"<sup>1</sup> and the brothers, Barclay and Edwin Coppoe, took part in the raid. Soon after Brown's capture the dispatches announced that among Brown's papers were found letters of two prominent Republican leaders of Iowa, namely Mr. Wm. Penn Clarke of Iowa City, and Mr. Josiah B. Grinnell of Grinnell, the former then the reporter for the Supreme Court and the latter a state Senator; and suspicious partisans of the "Administration" charged that the correspondence was incriminating.<sup>2</sup> On December 16, 1859, the "Select Committee" of the Senate of which Senator John M. Mason of Virginia was chairman and Jefferson Davis of Mississippi was a potent member, began its inquiry into the "invasion;" and on January 5, 1860, its hearings began at Washington and some of Iowa's citizens expected summons to appear at the inquisition to tell what they knew of the "aid and comfort" given the conspirators at Tabor, Des Moines, Grinnell, Iowa City, Springdale and Davenport.<sup>3</sup> Coincident with the latter proceedings Governor John Letcher of Virginia issued (Jan. 10) a requisition on the Chief Executive of Iowa for the apprehension of Barclay Coppoe, a fugitive from justice in Virginia, the misjoinder of which two weeks later produced one of the dramatic episodes of those stirring days—explosions in the Legislature and a ringing message in rejoinder from Governor Kirkwood.

Into this highly charged atmosphere came Governor Kirkwood's inaugural address, delivered (Jan. 11) in person to the General Assembly. Three-fifths of his discourse was devoted to national issues—John Brown and Harper's Ferry, Slavery and Colonization. Brown's course the new chief magistrate of Iowa condemned "unqualifiedly," not only as "unlawful" but wrong and reprehensible and destructive of law and order. Nevertheless he at the same time roundly de-

<sup>1</sup>Frank B. Sanborn, *Recollections of Seventy Years*, I, 163.

<sup>2</sup>*The Dubuque Herald*, November 8, 1859—Correspondence from Burlington, Iowa. See also Grinnell *Ib.*, p. 218.

<sup>3</sup>*Report of The Select Committee of the Senate Appointed to Inquire into the Late Invasion and Seizure of the Public Property at Harper's Ferry*, etc., pp. 27, 28.

Mr. J. B. Grinnell attended on summons at Washington but was not called before the Committee to testify. See his *Men and Events of Forty Years*, pp. 218, 219.

nounced Presidents Pierce and Buchanan, charging that they by tortuous courses "sowed the wind" in Nebraska and Kansas, and the South was reaping the whirlwind in Virginia; on their shoulders Kirkwood laid the sole responsibility for Brown's "unlawful invasion" of the Old Dominion. As with the lightning's flash—the inaugural was followed by tremendous thunder and reverberation. The Democrats returned with furious denunciation of its sentiments. Mr. J. B. Dorr, their most influential editor pronounced its doctrines "infamous."<sup>1</sup> The Democrats of the lower house of the legislature filed a solemn formal protest against its deliverance and against its publication and distribution at public expense, declaring its statements mere dicta and grossly inappropriate as well as unwarranted, palliating lawlessness that directly assailed the integrity of the national union.<sup>2</sup> It was the violence of feeling thus created that later produced the disturbances anent Kirkwood's refusal to honor Governor Letcher's requisition for Barelay Coppoe just mentioned.

Amidst such a complex of counter currents the Legislature convened: and delegates to the special Republican state convention began to assemble in Des Moines.

Foremost in the minds of party leaders and workers was the fact that a Senator of the United States had to be elected, the term of Senator James Harlan then nearing completion. This contingency, as all familiar with state politics know, is the alpha and omega of the personal political ambitions

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<sup>1</sup>*The Dubuque Herald*, January 15, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>See *Journal of House of Representatives* (8th G. A.) for dates mentioned for the Address and the Protest.

Governor Kirkwood's denunciation of Brown's conduct as hostile to good government had been antedated by another prominent Iowan on the floor of the House of Representatives at Washington. Col. Sam'l R. Curtis of Keokuk, represented the First Congressional District, comprising then the south half of Iowa. Repelling a bold innuendo that the Republicans were urging a candidate for Speaker who endorsed murder, Colonel Curtis on December 24, 1859, pronounced Brown's invasion of Virginia at Harper's Ferry "an outrage." (Cong. Globe, 36 Cong. 1st Ses., Vol. I-241.) Later, January 4, 1860, in the course of a colloquy with Reagan of Texas, Cobb of Alabama, and Craig of Missouri, Colonel Curtis declared Brown's previous robbery of the nine slaves from Missouri and spiriting them through Iowa "a more flagrant violation of law, and more important in its character and results than the foray which he made into Virginia." (*Ib.*, pp. 331-2.)

and finesse in American commonwealths. Then as now "King Caucus" ruled supreme. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday the lobbies of the hotels of Des Moines swarmed with political leaders and their henchmen, with legislators and candidates for offices, both great and small, with their friends and aids in attendance—all in a tremendous buzz.<sup>1</sup> Monday night (Jan. 9) party caucuses selected the clerks, doorkeepers, firemen, pages and postmaster for the Senate and the lower House. The ardent desires of the innumerable candidates for these petty offices were potentially dangerous forces when disappointed by the decisions of the caucus; for these aspirants possess power in the provinces and may influence greatly their senators and representatives in determining their course in matters of greater moment. In the election of the Speaker of the House of Representatives and in the apportionment of the chairmanships of committees and membership therein such petty considerations play no small part and the course of the Legislature on all important matters is thereby determined.

At Des Moines, as at Washington, the office of Public Printer was an alluring prize. One of Senator Harlan's strongest friends, Mr. John Teesdale, editor of *The Iowa Weekly Citizen*, had held the office since 1856. He desired a third term and deemed himself entitled to the honor. Two other influential republican editors were ambitious to secure the emoluments of the office—Messrs. James B. Howell of *The Gate City* of Keokuk and Mr. Frank W. Palmer of *The Dubuque Times*.<sup>2</sup> The fates decided in favor of the latter, and the candidacy of Senator Harlan for re-election to the National Senate had some part in the decision. From the time of his first election to that body in 1855, republican leaders in the north half

<sup>1</sup>*Iowa City Republican*, January 11, 1860.—Editorial Correspondence from Des Moines, dated January 7th.

<sup>2</sup>There were other active or "receptive" candidates for the place mentioned besides those referred to above: Messrs. John Mahin of *The Daily Muscatine Journal*, G. H. Jerome of *The Iowa City Republican*, J. G. Davenport of *The Times* of Cedar Rapids, and Alfred Sanders of *The Daily Davenport Gazette*. (Capitol Corr. of *The Gate City*, January 11, 1860, and *The Daily Iowa State Journal*, January 10, 1860.) Mr. Mahin apparently did not desire the office seriously for he states that Mr. Teesdale's "most prominent competitor" was Mr. Howell of *The Gate City*, "the oldest and most efficient newspaper conductor in the state." (Capitol Corr. in *Daily Muscatine Journal*, January 11, 1860.)



of the State had demanded a like honor for one of their leaders, and had constantly fanned local prejudices with that end in view. Party leaders at Dubuque were foremost in urging the election of a northern man. Despite their powerful pressure Governor James W. Grimes, a near neighbor of Mr. Harlan, was elected as his colleague in 1858; not a few of the senior Senator's friends realized the danger in the latter fact. To counterbalance it, political prizes of lesser value went to the north half of the State. This consideration was in mind in the nomination of Mr. Kirkwood for Governor in 1859.<sup>1</sup> In 1860 Dubuque had aspirants for senatorial honors who only needed a favorable slant of the beam to induce their announcement. A correspondent of *The Gate City*, writing from Des Moines, Dec. 26, 1859, significantly observes: "The Senatorial question seems superficially to excite but little attention here just now; but the portents of the times are that the vexed question of locality will be exhumed for the benefit of solicitous competitors."<sup>2</sup>

Appreciating the situation, Mr. Palmer became a candidate for State Printer. In the contest Senator Harlan's managers could not prudently promote the chances of either Mr. Teesdale or Mr. Howell, without arousing the resentment of the "North-state" partisans favoring Mr. Palmer. On the other hand neutrality is no less a rock of offense in politics—for those adversely affected are wont to suspect that it signifies either indifference or timidity, deadly offenses in the code of lay politicians—those who seek to attain or to hold high office and power must make return in kind to those humbler personages whose co-operation and votes are essential to their elevation and continuance in power. Somewhat of the importance and heat of the contest may be inferred from the reports of two observers. Another correspondent of *The Gate City*, "R" wrote January 6th that, "It is now thought that

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<sup>1</sup>Numbers of letters to Senator Harlan from 1858 to 1860 emphasize the considerations referred to above. *Autobiographical MSS.*

<sup>2</sup>*The Gate City*, December 31, 1859. The Correspondent signs himself "J. M. D."—probably the late J. M. Delaplaine at that time on the staff of *The Gate City*.

the great fight of the session will be about the State Printing."<sup>1</sup> Four days later when the caucus had been called for the nomination of the State Printer and the National Senator, Mr. Porter states: "The race for State Printer has become about as exciting as the competition for the post of would-be U. S. Senator."<sup>2</sup> Those familiar with maneuvers in party caucuses will appreciate the significance and the masterly tactics of Senator Harlan's friends in assenting to the postponement of the decision on the matter of the State Printer until January 24th. The cast of the votes when taken gave Mr. Palmer the prize.

In sundry perplexities of this sort and in the highly unstable conditions outlined, we may well suspect that there was more truth than partisan presumption and persiflage in the assertions of Mr. Will Porter, the Democratic editor of *The State Journal* at Des Moines. He declared that Mr. Harlan's friends were "anxious and uneasy;" that "they were afraid of delay and hence they forced hasty action;"<sup>3</sup> that there was much suppressed feeling and some "strong expressions of indignation;" that the Democrats asked for a reasonable delay but it was summarily denied. This urgency he asserts was due to the fact that a "particular friend of Senator Harlan, who has for several years held a position in the Senate received letters from prominent friends and perhaps from the Senator himself, urging an immediate caucus and speedy re-election—their purport was: 'delays are dangerous.' " In the course of his comments Mr. Porter throws out a suggestion that although tinged with ironical concern for an unbiased expression of the general sentiments of Republicans on the senatorship, no doubt reflected much of the current comment in the hotel lobbies:

The question is, why this haste? The Republican party have a clear and positive majority, which could not be affected by any of the ordinary casualties to which Legislators are subject. Next Wednesday, the 18th, the Republican State Convention comes off, which will be fresh from the people of that party throughout the State. They might have given to the various Republican Senators

<sup>1</sup>*Ib.*, January 11, 1860. "R" was probably Mr. Wm. Richards, then Business Manager of *The Gate City*.

<sup>2</sup>*The Daily Iowa State Journal*, January 10, 1860.

<sup>3</sup>*Ib.*, January 14, 1860.

and Representatives some counsels direct and healthy from their constituents, as to the general wishes of the party throughout the State, uncorrupted by any machinations so rife at the Capitol.....

In this re-election the Republican organization has been shaken to its foundation.<sup>1</sup>

Shrewd as were some of the political leaders foremost in the Republican party of Iowa in 1859-1860, it would be strange indeed if there were not senatorial politics in the fringes of the decision fixing the date of the special state convention to select the delegates to the national Republican convention to nominate their candidate for President. The conditions on the eve of the assembly of the delegates certainly afforded a situation for a free-for-all contest if by some disturbance the dogs of factions had been set upon each other.

#### (b) Sundry Editorial Expressions.

The near approach of the special convention to select the delegates to go to the national Republican convention elicited no more editorial expressions in the party press of the State respecting its work or the wisdom of various modes of procedure than did the call for the convention in the forepart of December. One finds no advice, no comment in the columns of Messrs. Aldrich, Drummond, Dunham, Howell, Jerome, Junkin, Mahin, Norris, Rich, Sanders and Teesdale. One must look sharply to discover even in their columns devoted to local news any mention of the caucuses or county conventions that selected the county delegates to attend at Des Moines. Such lack of expression did not necessarily imply indifference respecting the presidential contest or languid interest on the part of their readers. It may have been due to wise discretion and prudence. The attendance at the convention demonstrated that public or party interest was not dormant or halting. Two influential editors express their feelings—each in different ways and their observations are worth noting.

<sup>1</sup>*Ib.*, January 16, 1860.

So far as the writer can discover Mr. A. J. Stevens, a banker of Des Moines, then the member of the national Republican committee for Iowa, was the only candidate for Senator Harlan's place publicly mentioned (Capitol Corr., *Muscatine Journal*, January 11, 1860). Mr. Harlan's friends sent him many letters informing him of talk of the candidacy of Messrs. Jacob Butler of Muscatine, John A. Kasson, and George G. Wright of Des Moines, and of Fitz Henry Warren of Burlington. *Autobiographical MSS.*, pp. 3185-3583.



We have already seen the cautious, conservative comments of Mr. Henry P. Scholte of *The Pella Gazette* when the call for the convention was first published. On January 4th, referring generally to the work of the national convention he says particularly of candidates for its nomination: "We have certainly our personal preferences; but we have abstained to forestall our state and national conventions. Should our state convention deem it necessary to instruct our delegates for whom to give their first vote, well and good; but should that convention deem it better to give no decisive instructions in that regard, we shall, with good humor, sustain the men who shall be designated. . . ." The sentiment which Mr. Scholte expressed reiterates the views of the majority of the experienced editors of the State, put forth in their columns in 1859. Party government, like government at large, in a republic like ours is posited upon responsible leadership. The masses, or the constituents indicate their general desire and will in the large but seldom undertake to direct specifically as to the modes of realization either in respect of men or measures. To their leaders in council they delegate the power to decide, believing that a few selectmen free to act as conditions make expedient, will insure better counsels and wiser decisions than many men of many minds acting indiscriminately and ill-advisedly.

One hundred miles north of Pella, at Charles City in Floyd county, not far south of the Minnesota line, a new note was sounded—struck by one, too, who previously had been cautious and conservative in expression and suggestion. Mr. Hildreth in the forepart of 1859, indicated a favorable attitude towards the candidacy of Judge Bates, and an adverse disposition towards that of Senator Seward, for the reason largely that the latter was so generally proclaimed a radical, and reckless extremist upon the subject of Slavery. A decided change in the temperature and drift of public discussion followed John Brown's raid and the publication of Helper's *Impending Crisis*. The leaders of the South were infuriated and their denunciation of the abettors and comforters of Brown and Helper was bitter and seathing. Accusations of

conspiracy, "lawlessness" and treason hurtled through the council chambers at Washington—not vague hints and sly innuendo but personal mention, bald, direct, brutal. The members of the major party of the North were called indiscriminately "Abolitionists," a term of utter contempt in the mouths of Southerners and so considered by Northerners. The heaviest, sharpest missiles of the speeches of the Slavocrats were aimed at one man on whose shoulders they laid the responsibility for Abolitionism, which was manifest to them in "nigger stealing," underground railways, open defiance of the Fugitive Slave law, all of which had its fruition in John Brown, whose execution for high treason, flagrant and undenied, was publicly mourned in the North. That man they deemed the spokesman of the North and the protagonists of the South declared with but little reserve, that disunion by secession would ensue if he should be made President. The change and concentration in political discussion produced a revulsion of feeling in Mr. Hildreth and a decision not infrequent in strong natures normally inclined to conservative courses when long subject to direct and increasing malevolence. Considerateness in conduct, caution, grace and patience under such circumstances, are taken by the provoking party as evidence of weakness or as the shifts and finesse of hostile design. While with the one provoked, patience ceases to be a virtue, caution seems ill-advised, and he suddenly takes up the gauntlet thrown at his feet, for a fight seems demanded and a fight he will give and squarely on the main issue. Mr. Hildreth, exasperated beyond endurance, gave expression on January 12th to his intense feelings in an editorial that is instructive for more than one reason and it is given at length. Its declarations will indicate with decisive clearness the high voltage of the electricity with which the atmosphere of political debate in Iowa was surcharged, when the chiefs of the clans of the Republican party first met in 1860 to decide upon their course in the Chicago convention:

We notice that some of the papers in the Southern part of the State, are out in favor of Simon Cameron, of Pennsylvania, as a Republican candidate for the Presidency. That Cameron is an as-

piring man we have known for a long time, and we have no doubt that he and his agents are busy in "fixing the flints" of the Western press—in other words, moulding a Western public opinion in his favor. But, gentlemen, Editors of Iowa, this will not do. The antecedents of Simon Cameron are not satisfactory. Such times as these demand a *representative* man for a Presidential candidate of the Republican party. The doctrine of *availability* has been practiced upon by both the great leading political parties, until the nation, both in character and finance, has been brought upon the brink of ruin.

We believe that the Republicans will be able to elect whoever they may nominate for President. Then throw aside "availability" and give us a *positive* man—one whose history and principles are well known and are thoroughly tried—a man who may be fully regarded as the *embodiment* of the principles and the measures of the party. That man is unquestionably William H. Seward.

Does the reader ask our reasons for this opinion—we answer: The slavery propagandists—now the Democratic party—have made the selection for us. It is around Seward's unoffending head that all their wrath is concentrated. So much do they hate and fear him that they are continually threatening a dissolution of the Union should Republicans *dare* to exercise their rights under the Constitution and elect him for President.

Our former predilections were for Edward Bates of Missouri, as a Western man and a man representing our sentiments. Our "available" man was John C. Fremont, a man who will draw more votes than any other one the Republicans can put in nomination. But our *positive* man is William H. Seward, and believing that the Republicans can elect any man they may nominate, we go for Seward, heart and soul.

Six months ago it was difficult to tell who would or who should be the Republican candidate for President, but not so now. As said before, the Southern press and Southern leaders have made proclamations—and indeed it is their one continual howl—that if the free-men of the North dare to disregard their impudent dictation, and elect to the Presidency, William H. Seward, they will secede from or destroy the Union, and smash up things generally. In our opinion this settles the question for us.

Thus threatened and bullied, men who never preferred Seward to other well-known and long-tried Republicans for the Presidency, have now but one fixed and unalterable determination in regard to who shall be their Standard-Bearer in 1860. They intend to prove that they not only clearly understand their constitutional rights and privileges, but that they have the necessary nerve to maintain them. They will not threaten or bully or play the brag-



gadocio. All that they leave to the men who quailed before old John Brown and his seventeen miserable Abolitionists, and who have been marching troops up and down the country to frighten away the shadow of a danger which had no substance, save in their cowardly apprehensions, and the absence of all self-reliance in the hour of danger. They intend to vindicate their self-respect, to show their estimate of bullying threats, by electing to the Presidency the very man the South would ostracize. They will then leave to him and his co-administrators of the Government the punishment of treason whenever and wherever it dares to exhibit itself. And they have no fears for the result. Barking dogs rarely bite; and when they do, are certain to be punished for having mistaken their vocation.

We can tell our pro-slavery friends, and they had better believe it, that if any portion of this great confederacy whether it be the East or the West, the North or the South, attempts to withdraw from the Union, they will be promptly *whipped*—aye, *whipped* into subjection. It is all idle to mince the matter. The fiat has gone forth and will be enforced; let Washington, Oregon and California, at the Northwest, or Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts, at the Northeast or the Agricultural States of the North and Center, or the slave States of the South and the Southwest—let any one of them or any combination of them raise the banner of rebellion against the American Union—we care not what their pretence for treason—as certainly as there is a God above, so certain is it, that the offending States, will be *whipped* into obedience, and the traitors who encouraged rebellion, terminate their career upon the gallows.<sup>1</sup>

Sundry facts in connection with the foregoing editorial may well be noted before passing on to later phases. In the first place its significance is enhanced when we consider that the writer was not a Harry Hotspur as was Mr. Thomas Drummond of *The Eagle* of Vinton, nor a radical of the type of Mr. John Mahin of *The Journal* of Muscatine. He was a cool, deliberate “down east” Yankee who had had twenty years of experience as an editor in Vermont and Massachusetts. Further, at the time he wrote the lines, he was a member of the most potent body in the state government of Iowa, the Board of Education, that under a special clause of the constitution had plenary powers of legislation, supervision, control and adjudication in the finance and administration of the entire educational system of the State, of the common, secondary and the highest state schools.

<sup>1</sup>St. Charles Intelligencer, Jan. 12, 1860.

Mr. Hildreth, it is clear, looked upon the movement for the nomination of Senator Cameron of Pennsylvania with some concern, evidently considering it to be gathering decided headway. He, no less than other editors who have been quoted, appreciated the strategic importance of securing the electoral vote of the Keystone state. But considerations of expediency lumped together under the catch word "availability" were not sufficient to warrant the nomination of the Pennsylvanian at Chicago. He was a shrewd and successful politician, an artful and skilled tactician in the organization and direction of party workers in political campaigns and field maneuvers, in the working and control of the "machine" as we put it nowadays. But neither his character nor his career symbolized the dominant opinion, or, perhaps better, the determining opinion on the major issue uppermost in the public mind—to-wit, Slavery. On this issue the entire public was intensely alive. Its consideration could neither be avoided nor hedged against by party leaders, much as they might wish to do so; and their candidate for the Presidency must needs be satisfactory to the mass of the Republicans in the reliable states as well as to those in the doubtful states. Senator Cameron, whether justly or not, had a reputation that made voters concerned only with the evils of public life, and not at all with the game and methods of politics, extremely suspicious; and however agreeable he might be to the politicians of Pennsylvania, his nomination at Chicago would neither secure the faith nor arouse the enthusiasm of Republicans, let alone win new adherents to the party's standards.

The most striking facts in Mr. Hildreth's editorials are his acceptance of the threats of Secession by the Southern Fire-eaters as deliberate and serious, and his definite and solemn defiance to the promoters of Disunion. Secession had been the bogie of political discussion for many years. In the Fremont campaign in 1856 threats of Disunion were boldly and freely made, but at the North they were generally discounted and ridiculed as "idle talk" and "silly nonsense."<sup>1</sup> The *emcute* at Harper's Ferry and Helper's *Impending Crisis*,

<sup>1</sup>Von Holst, *Constitutional and Political History of the United States*, V, 247-251.

and the deadlock over the Speakership in Congress, caused a renewal of such threats. "The Capitol resounds with the cries of dissolution," wrote Senator Grimes to Mrs. Grimes, "and the cry is echoed throughout the city."<sup>1</sup> But again the leaders and the press of the Republican party regarded, or at least proclaimed the seditious utterances as partisan tricks—"a game for the Presidency" wrote Thurlow Weed; "an audacious humbug," declared Greeley's *Tribune*;<sup>2</sup> and Senator Grimes deemed them designed "simply to coerce, to frighten the Republicans."<sup>3</sup> Throughout 1860 Republicans commonly derided the miniatory language of Southerners, although Mr. Rhodes gives us grounds for his suggestion that their scoffing was mainly for party purposes.<sup>4</sup> A fact significant of this conclusion—although by no means necessarily so—was the general contempt heaped upon the participants in the "Union-saving Meetings" and programs promoted during the period here considered. The Republican editors of Iowa, as in the older states to the east, regarded such proceedings as nefarious and designed to weaken the strength of their party.<sup>5</sup> The utter unpreparedness of the North for the catastrophe when the storm broke in 1861, and the tremendous shock and rebound universally witnessed, indicates pretty conclusively that Mr. Hildreth's serious consideration of the "strong talk" of the Slavocrats was not common. How common Mr. Hildreth's feelings were in Iowa at that time we can not now determine; but we have already noted the defiance of another cool conservative editor, Mr. Howell. In June, 1858, to the treasonable declarations of *The Crescent* of New Orleans, he replied, "all such fanatics as *The Crescent* . . . will be driven like dogs to their kennels or hung by

<sup>1</sup>Salter's *Life of Jas. W. Grimes*, 121.

<sup>2</sup>Von Holst, *Ib.*, VII, 230-240. <sup>3</sup>Salter, *Ib.*, 122.

<sup>4</sup>Rhodes, *History of the United States*, 11, 488.

<sup>5</sup>*The Daily Muscatine Journal*, December 28, 1859. See editorial on "The Union Saving Farce."



the wayside as a warning to traitors." should they attempt secession on the election of a Republican President.<sup>1</sup>

Normally we should expect to find vigorous language of this sort in the columns of Mr. John Mahin's *Journal* at Muscatine, but for the most part he was silent, at least so far as extended slashing editorials go. On January 12th, in contrasting the character of Charleston and Chicago as convention cities and the spirit and purposes of the men who would assemble in them to represent the two great parties to decide on their national platforms and candidates, Mr. Mahin uses some firm language:

. . . all the loud and excited talk of the fire eaters, and the whining of the dirt eaters—the two classes which compose the Democratic party will have no other effect than to strengthen their determination [of the Republicans] to take the administration of the affairs of the country out of the hands of the unscrupulous demagogues who are now at the helm. The Republican party holds that slavery should be restricted to its present limits, and upon this issue it will receive the hearty support of a large class at the South, who believe that slavery operates against the welfare of the States in which it at present exists. Republicans are determined to preserve the Union against the threats and acts of disunionists everywhere; and, as we said, the convention at Chicago will bind together in an invincible phalanx, good and true men, at the North and South, for the election of a president upon these grounds. Abuses, of course, will be heaped upon the party by the "Democratic" press and "Democratic" orators, but the people cannot be deceived by any such stuff. They have not forgotten that the fathers of the Republic occupied the identical position upon the Slavery question that the Republican party now occupies and their decision at the ballot box in November, will be their answer to the "Democratic" argument of the campaign, from which, if not satisfactory to them, they cannot appeal.

Mr. Howell of *The Gate City* had no advice to offer the delegates to the state convention, but on January 11th he placed before his readers the name of a candidate for the presidential nomination not heretofore mentioned, but not a name unknown. As was his wont he did so "without prejudice," being completely non-committal as to his own feelings for or against the candidate and his consideration. He said:

<sup>1</sup>*The Gate City*, June 30, 1858.

Mr. Howell, reciting similar threats in the presidential campaign of 1828, in the event of the election of J. Q. Adams, and again during the speakership contest when N. P. Banks was a candidate, observed on the current threats: "The Disunion game is an old game. It is played on purpose to 'gull the flats' and so long as the 'flats' exist they expect to be successful. Whether the game is played out or not is a thing to be proved." (*The Gate City*, December 26, 1859.) Two weeks later he reproves Democratic editors for not denouncing the suggestion that Disunion would be beneficial to the South. (*Ib.*, January 9, 1860.)

The friends of Mr. Dayton have issued a circular to promote his nomination to the Presidency. They say that full conferences have established the fact that he would receive the vote of the united opposition in New Jersey and be certain to carry the State; and they feel confident that the same elements of popularity, the same antecedents and the same general state of things politically in Pennsylvania that prevail in New Jersey would enable him to carry that state.

Mr. Dunham's comment in *The Hawk-Eye* (Jan. 10th) on the claim of Mr. Dayton's promoters that his popularity in New Jersey and Pennsylvania would carry those states for the Republicans was somewhat critical: " . . . the fact that he failed to do so as a candidate for Vice-President in 1856 is not satisfactorily reconciled with this assumption. Mr. Dayton is an eminently conservative man with Whig antecedents and would make a good president if elected." Such comment indicates adverse inclinations but it is so cushioned with commendation that the critic is not embarrassed if the fates decide in the candidate's favor.

The writer has discovered but one editorial specifically urging the nomination of a particular candidate in the fore part of January. Mr. Orlando McCraney, editor of *The Weekly McGregor Press*, declared himself again in favor of the nomination of Judge Bates. A portion of his editorial succeeds:

The time is now drawing near when the candidates of the different parties and interests for their responsible positions are to be brought forward. The political sentiment of the country never before was in so unsettled a condition as today, and but few men in the North at least, are prepared to pledge fidelity to any particular party. The conservative Republican element, we think, will predominate, and the opposition will fall into line.....

We are but one of the millions interested in this great political movement, yet we claim the right to be heard. Our vote and our influence will be extended in behalf of the nomination of Edward Bates of Missouri, as the candidate of the people, believing, as we do, that he is not only one of the best, most talented, able and liberal men of the day, but that he is a man who is closely identified with the interest of our portion of the Union. That he will be the friend of the pioneer—that he will exert his influence in opening to commerce our vast west, and giving life and zeal to emigration.

Edward Bates is also our choice on account of availability. We regard him as one of the most popular men of the day and acceptable alike to the North and South, East and West. He has been called forward not by a life spent in demagogism but by his fellow countrymen, and if the honors and responsibilities of that office are conferred upon him, it will be unasked for and unsolicited by him. He will come into office untrammelled by fealty to party or persons. He will be free to act according to the convictions of his own mind and will make the people an able and worthy president.

Mr. Dunham reprints the foregoing without comment.<sup>1</sup>

The significance of surface phenomena in the currents of politics is always difficult to apprehend; just as it is difficult to perceive the purport of eddies and swirls in the currents of our rivers. The following extract from a letter written to *The Gate City* and dated at New York City, Jan. 7, 1860, is not without interest:

At a social meeting, by invitation, at a private house, one evening this week, where some twenty republicans of the city were present, together with General Pomeroy of Kansas, Gen. Reid, Mayor Leighton, Wm. S. McGavic, D. W. Kilbourne, of Keokuk, Attorney-General Rice of Oskaloosa, and Jacob Butler, Esq., of Muscatine, there was a decided preference expressed by most of [the] party (except the Iowa gentleman) for Chase of Ohio. Seward, Chase, Bates, Cameron, and Wade seem to be the most prominent at the present time.<sup>2</sup>

The adverse attitude of so many different Iowans from widely separate sections of the southern half of the State towards the candidacy of Gov. Chase is suggestive. All of the men mentioned were ardent Republicans. Mr. Butler, in particular, was an Abolitionist of a pronounced type. Gov. Chase's record as an anti-slavery man could not be gainsaid except by extremists of the most violent sort. Such disinclination in respect of his nomination must have signified a common belief that he could not be elected if nominated.

#### (c) Some of the County Preliminaries.

The local preliminaries incident to the selection of the delegates to attend the state convention at Des Moines aroused but little public interest if we should conclude from the reports

<sup>1</sup>*The Hawk-Eye* (wk.), Jan. 21, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>*The Gate City*, Jan. 18, 1860.



thereof in the party press of the State. One experiences difficulty in discovering calls or notices of local caucuses or primaries or county conventions. There is little space given to their proceedings; and almost no comment thereon. A few details are discoverable, some of which are instructive, for they suggest the major currents that were constantly running beneath the surface.

The selection of the delegates for Dubuque county elicited a brief note in *The Dubuque Herald*. Among the delegates chosen were Judge W. T. Hamilton, Wm. B. Allison and D. N. Cooley. Two other names, Messrs. Francis Mangold and H. W. Richter, suggest the "recognition" of the German-American element in that community<sup>1</sup>. At Davenport the party leaders were careful to attend to the nativity of the delegates, if we may believe the classification of *The Davenport Democrat*. Of the twelve delegates—five were *Germans*, N. J. Rusch, G. G. Arndt, L. Schricker, H. Ramming, and H. L. Lischer; three were *Irishmen*, James Quinn, B. F. Guy and Alfred Sanders; and five were *Americans*, John W. Thompson, Wm. Henry Fitz, Hugh Gurley, Geo. W. Ells, and Chas. Foster. To some sarcastic suggestion of *The Democrat*, the "administration" organ at Davenport, anent the nationalities Mr. Mahin at Muscatine, retorted: "Well, what of it, Mr. Democrat? Are you such an out-and-out Know-Nothing as to complain because eight of these delegates are foreigners and only five are natives?"<sup>2</sup> Farther down the river at Burlington the delegates were chosen apparently without fuss. Two names—Messrs. C. W. Bodeman and T. B. Webber—again indicate that sons of Germania were numerous enough to be reckoned with and hence were entitled to representation in the party's councils. Three state notables appear in the lists—Mr. Chas. Ben Darwin, chairman of the Code Commission that was then about to submit its draft of the Code of 1860 to the Legislature, Judge L. D. Stockton, then one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of Iowa, and Mr. Fitz Henry Warren, of whom more later. The convention or the "meeting" voted that the "Central committee [of Des

<sup>1</sup>*The Dubuque Herald*, December 29, 1859.

<sup>2</sup>*The Daily Muscatine Journal*, January 6, 1860.

Moines county?] fill the vacancies in the delegation should any occur."<sup>1</sup> Mr. Dunham makes no editorial reference in *The Hawk-Eye* to the convention, nor to the delegates nor to the approaching state convention. The state convention seems to have had no special interest to the editors of *The Gate City*. Mr. Howell was chairman of the county central committee and issued (Dec. 16) the call for the county convention to assemble at Charleston, in Lee county (Dec. 31); but although he and his business manager were generally interested in the final result one finds no reference to the proceedings. In Wapello county, and in Ottumwa the convention took no action that attracted special interest except to specify by resolution as to the manner of casting the vote if some of the delegates should fail to attend at Des Moines.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Teesdale's paper related the proceedings of the convention of Polk county in two inches of space.<sup>3</sup>

We have already seen that the Republicans of Fremont county instructed their delegates to Des Moines to work for the nomination of Justice John McLean for President and Judge Edward Bates for Vice-President.<sup>4</sup> And that the local caucus at Newton directed their representatives in the county convention of Jasper county to seek to secure the nomination of Salmon P. Chase and of Abraham Lincoln for first and second places on the national ticket.<sup>5</sup> Whether any like action was taken or opposed at the ensuing convention the writer can not say. The Republicans of Black Hawk county apparently were composed of some lusty radicals for they directed their delegates "to use their influence at the state convention for delegates to the national convention who are in favor of the nomination of Wm. H. Seward or Charles Sumner as the Republican candidate for President."<sup>6</sup> Instructions such as these make ardent partisans and insistent promoters of candidates groan in spirit and, if they dare, indulge in strong language.

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<sup>1</sup>*The Burlington Hawk-Eye*, January 2, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>*The Weekly Ottumwa Courier*, January 5, 1860.

<sup>3</sup>*Daily State Register*, January 9, 1860.

<sup>4</sup>*Ib.*, January 13, 1860.

<sup>5</sup>*The Gate City*, January 11, 1860.

<sup>6</sup>*The Black Hawk Courier*, January 3, 1860.

Here and there the waters surged up vigorously and white caps were observable. The turmoil at Washington had its reaction in some of the county conventions. The Republicans of Grundy county felt strongly and gave expression to their feelings upon the course of affairs at the national capital. Their resolutions were pointed and pithy:

Resolved, That the Republicans of Grundy county approve of the determined stand our Representatives in Congress have taken in the election of Speaker, believing as we do, that those who recommend Helper's Book are safer men than avowed disunionists.

Resolved, That we are in favor of the Union, inasmuch as we have prospered under it, and as we see no good cause for abandoning it, we will stay in it, and we will make all others stay in it, or do as General Jackson would have done, hang all who attempt to get out of it.<sup>1</sup>

The names of only two Iowans appeared among the endorsers of Helper's book, Mr. Timothy Davis of Dubuque, Congressman from Iowa from 1857-59, and Col. S. R. Curtis, then in Congress.<sup>2</sup> The Republican central committee of Muscatine county deemed the urgency of public questions so great that they made special mention of the fact when they published (Dec. 8) their "request" of the Republicans to meet in "Mass Convention" on January 7th, at the county courthouse; thus concluding:

We respectfully suggest that there be on this occasion a general attendance from all parts of the county, to give an authoritative expression to the sentiments of the Republicans of this county upon the exciting questions now agitating the country, and of their preferences as to the manner of conducting the coming campaign.

The chairman of the committee signing the foregoing was Mr. Hugh J. Campbell, who was then manifesting the energy and decisiveness of character that made his subsequent career influential in Louisiana and the Dakotas.<sup>3</sup> The convention

<sup>1</sup>*The Daily State Register*, February 2, 1860.

<sup>2</sup>*Cong. Globe*, 31 Cong., 1st Sess., Vol. I-16.

<sup>3</sup>He became a Brigadier-General by brevet on being mustered out of the Union army at the close of the war. Later he was appointed federal judge in Louisiana. While in that State he achieved fame or infamy as a member of the election board in the electoral contest in 1876-77. He gave his decision in favor of the Republican presidential electors, thereby insuring the election of President Hayes. Afterwards he moved to the Territory of Dakota where he served for years as District Attorney. His activities on behalf of statehood for the present Dakotas gained him the sobriquet of "Father of Statehood." *Appleton's Cyclopaedia of American Biography*, VII, 47.



occurred as scheduled with a number of prominent party chiefs in attendance. Judge George Meason presided. Mr. Geo. H. Van Horne was made Secretary. Later he was appointed Consul at Marseilles by President Lincoln, and had a creditable career as a journalist, lecturer and writer. The convention transacted its main business apparently without friction, choosing an exceptionally strong delegation, eight in number, to attend at Des Moines. Among the delegates was Mr. D. C. Cloud, Iowa's first Attorney-General (1853-1856). The course of the Democratic party in Kansas forced him to abandon that party. He was later the author of several books of considerable local currency.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Suel Foster, a noted pioneer horticulturist to whom chief credit is given for creating the demand that led to the establishing of the Agricultural College at Ames<sup>2</sup> was a delegate, as were Mr. Jacob Butler, Mr. John Mahin and Mr. Henry O'Connor. The meeting discussed at some length methods for "more effective organization" in conducting the campaign. A committee was appointed, consisting of L. H. Washburn, Jerome Carskadden and Hugh J. Campbell. The minutes subsequently report that "on motion of Hugh J. Campbell, Esq., the work entitled 'Helper's Impending Crisis' is recommended by this committee as a book worthy of an extensive circulation in this county." Whereupon the convention adjourned.

The recommendation of Helper's book made Mr. D. S. Biles, editor of *The Democratic Enquirer* of Muscatine, fulminate mightily. The resolution of the convention, together with sundry extracts of striking passages from the *Impending Crisis* were reprinted by him, under the caption in bold black type "The Republican Platform." He reproduced a half column or more thereof in nearly every issue from Jan. 12 to Feb. 23. He made the action of the Republicans of Muscatine notorious and aroused no little public interest, for a special correspondent of *The New York Herald*, then travel-

<sup>1</sup>Gue, *History of Iowa*, IV, 55. His chief books were *The War Powers of the President and Monopolies and the People*.

<sup>2</sup>*Ib.*, IV, 94, 95.

ing in the Northwest, devoted considerable space to the fact as indicative of the overwhelming abolition sentiment among the Republicans of Iowa; he declared it to be the first public endorsement of the book anywhere in the North.<sup>1</sup>

(d) Senator Harlan's Confidential Advices.

The public utterances of political leaders and their confidential expressions *inter se* are not always coincident. Such divergences as we may discern are seldom due to moral delinquency but to the fact that in public, politicians assert what they hope for in the large, and are striving to bring to pass, or express what they deem most prudent and effective for their purposes. In the confidences of personal interviews or correspondence, however, they exhibit their hopes and fears, their desires and plans, frankly and freely—or at least more so. Subjects as to which they maintain a severe silence in their editorial columns or on the platform, they deal with plumply within the family circle. Thus it was in the preliminaries of the presidential campaign in 1860 in Iowa. The major currents of opinion among Republicans on both issues and candidates were not clearly discernable on the surface, when the party chiefs convened at Des Moines to make their first decision as to their course in the contest. The expressions of editors were rare and in general terms when ventured; but the conclusion does not follow that party chiefs and local leaders were not keenly interested and alive to the momentous matters then in the balances.

In state politics there are, as already intimated, two chief centers that receive the voluminous currents of party advices. The substance of advices, information and appeals, return in cautious inquiry and deft suggestion, sometimes in direct and urgent decisions. These centers are the State's national senators. These party chiefs correlate local and national opinion. Their views are the issue of currents constantly flowing into Washington from their constituents, modified by their appreciation of advices received from their associates in Wash-

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<sup>1</sup>N. Y. *Herald*, February 19, 1860. The comments referred to were quoted by the writer, *ANNALS*, VIII, 194.

ington from other states. We have already seen the letter of Senator Grimes to Governor-elect Kirkwood, written December 26, 1859. As Iowa's junior Senator was in constant correspondence with his constituents his advice was doubtless in part a reflection of his local advices. Unfortunately the contents of his letter files seem to be irrecoverably lost.<sup>1</sup> Senator Harlan's correspondence, however, has been preserved and it affords us interesting evidence of the drifts and shifts of local opinion in Iowa during the period here under consideration. Sundry portions of the correspondence are given in what follows.

Col. Alvin Saunders of Mt. Pleasant was Senator Harlan's *fidus Achates* and his major-general in his senatorial campaigns. From Springfield, Ill., once his home<sup>2</sup> where he was visiting he wrote (Nov. 8), relative to the presidential contest approaching: "If we succeed then we are all O. K., but if we fail then our cake is dough for at least a long time." James F. Wilson of Fairfield wrote (Dec. 19), "The threats of disunion now so boldly made sit heavily on the Democracy of the Northwest. . . . The cry raised over Helper's book is doing more towards its circulation than all the Republican committees could have done in years. Everybody wants to read its awful contents." Dr. Charles S. Clarke, a prominent physician of Fairfield (Dec. 22): . . . "I am as you well know an earnest Republican. I would not interfere with slavery in the states. I never did sympathize or act with the Abolition party and yet down South they would call me an Abolitionist."<sup>3</sup> I know the Republican leaders of Iowa and elsewhere and I know that they are Union Republicans and are opposed to disunion Democrats and Abolitionists. Republicans in Iowa all condemn Brown's rash act but they do admire his bravery, truthfulness and fidelity to what he conscientiously deemed right."<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Senator Grimes' correspondence with the exception of a few letters was destroyed by the Executor of his estate by direction of Mrs. Grimes.—Miss Mary D. Nealley to the writer, Sept. 20, 1909.

<sup>2</sup>Colonel Saunder's brother, Pressley, was a member of Abraham Lincoln's regiment in the Black Hawk War.

<sup>3</sup>Dr. Clarke lived for some time in Kentucky.

<sup>4</sup>In a letter to Senator H., October 30th, Dr. Clarke said: "No good citizen justifies Brown, no good citizen excuses Pierce, Buchanan & Co. On them this evil rests."



Not all of Senator Harlan's correspondents discussed affairs at large; some wished to promote the general welfare by his advancement; thus Mr. J. B. Young, a leading attorney of Marion, in Linn county, expressed a hope (Dec. 27) "I would rejoice to see my old friend . . . the candidate for Vice-President," a wish that was later declared publicly by another friend in an adjoining county.

Another attorney, Mr. J. F. Brown of Eldora in Hardin county, communicated his views upon the presidential question (Dec. 28): "I hope that W. H. Seward will be nominated *if he can be elected*. He above all others is my Man." The Secretary of State, Mr. Elijah Sells, notified him (Dec. 29) that the "Third House" of the General Assembly and the Chicago, Iowa and Nebraska Railroad Company were "conspiring" to secure a diversion of the land grant to the Iowa Central Air line to a new company. Mr. John W. Rankin, the state senator from Lee county, the law partner of Samuel F. Miller, wrote him (Jan. 14, 1860): "Give my best wishes to Gov. Grimes, also to Gen. Cameron, the next President of the United States. This is no prophecy, but the truth ahead of time." On the same date Mr. Robert Gower of Gower's Ferry, in Cedar county, gave him a report of local opinion on the presidential succession and expressed his own views as to a desirable nominee:

People are beginning to discuss the subject of our next President. I expect our State by their convention on the 18th inst. will decide their preference for Republican nominee. I have heard urged by delegates to that convention, General Cameron, General Fessenden and Judge McLean. Before the 13th of June I would be glad of your choice.

The expressions which succeed are taken from two letters written in Des Moines on the eve of the state convention, by delegates thereto. Both writers had state wide reputations and influence. The first was a brilliant orator and effective campaigner. The second was an experienced party worker, alert and shrewd, who had been a close observer of political conditions in southern sections of the State from the time Iowa

was a part of the territory of Wisconsin. Mr. Henry O'Connor of Muscatine, on January 15th wrote Senator Harlan of presidential politics as follows:

. . . Our convention which meets next Wednesday will be largely attended and we anticipate a good time. Everybody is a candidate for delegate to the Chicago Convention so that we will be at no loss for timber. I am entirely indifferent providing they will only send a delegation that will comport with the dignified and decided Republican character of Iowa. I think Iowa may be set down now as decidedly Republican in sentiment and action. There is a good deal of talk and speculation about Presidential candidates, one element which seems to be entering into this coming Presidential contest already, I never liked and like it now less than ever, that is the *availability* element. It's a sheer humbug. We as a party have strength enough if we only have integrity, we can and ought to select our best man, the representative man of our party. I have but one candidate myself, although I expect to vote and work for whoever is nominated. If my vote could make a president today it would be given to Wm. H. Seward in preference to any man now living. I believe he can be—I know he ought to be President.

The next day (Jan. 16) Mr. Hawkins Taylor of Keokuk communicated his observations on the same subject:

. . . Our State Convention comes off Wednesday for the appointment of delegates to the Chicago Convention. There is a good many candidates for delegates. Who will be appointed it is hard to tell now. I am in favor of the appointment of two to each Judicial district and then let them cast the vote the state is entitled to which ought to be 16 or 18. There is no disposition to instruct our delegates, still I think that the general feeling is in favor of Cameron and Lincoln or Lincoln and Grow. It is universally conceded that Pennsylvania must be carried and the question is who can do it. I have never heard anyone say that they believed that Seward or Chase could. And I am well satisfied that neither of them can carry Iowa against Douglas or any popular Northern Doughface. I have spent the fall and winter buying hogs in the two Southern Tier of counties west of the Des Moines and I tell you there is *no Seward or Chase men there*. The Republicans of that section are more like the Opposition of Missouri.

I confess I am not over sanguine of success next fall. We have men that can be elected *but we can not elect anybody*. You must recollect that the mass of the voters don't read political documents and consequently do not get excited and have great aversion to

voting for any man . . . . I should like to hear your views on the subject of the next Presidential Candidate. How does Forney feel? Could he be got to support Seward or Chase?

Various facts in the foregoing may well be noted before passing on. Senator Harlan's correspondents declare John Brown's raid into Virginia reprehensible, even though they may express some sympathy with the man's trials or admiration of his character. Again of like import, Abolitionism is anathema. Those who mention the presidential succession fall into two classes: the friends of particular candidates and the advocates of no particular candidate, save the man who can poll the most votes for the party's cause. Those who urge Gov. Seward, while earnest in their admiration of the man, nevertheless feel doubts as to his chances of winning in the election. Doing and dying with a favorite champion may be heroic; but if defeat is the result your cake will become dough. The cause of their hesitation was the existence of oldtime and obstreperous prejudices in the minds of the southern folk in the State, who hated abolitionists with the same vigor that they hated slavery and would have none of either. Further, Mr. Taylor refers to Abraham Lincoln as a definite candidate, one who is to be reckoned with, precisely as Governors Chase or Seward, with an assurance that indicates that he did not deem the consideration of the Illinoisan unfamiliar to his party chief at Washington. Senator Harlan's contingent candidacy for national honors is suggested by two correspondents—a suggestion the realization of which was by no means violently improbable. Five of the correspondents just cited were chosen at the state convention, January 18th, to represent the Republicans of Iowa at the national convention at Chicago: Messrs. Brown of Eldora, O'Connor of Muscatine, Rankin of Keokuk, Saunders of Mt. Pleasant, and Wilson of Fairfield.



## THE LYONS AND IOWA CENTRAL RAILROAD.

BY RUTH IRISH PRESTON.

In 1836, seven years after the famous trial trip of the first American steam car, on the Delaware and Hudson road, and while Iowa was yet a part of Wisconsin, the legislature of that territory at its first session, incorporated the "Belmont and Dubuque Railroad Company" and authorized it to construct a single or double track "from Belmont in Wisconsin to the most eligible point on the Mississippi river at or near Dubuque." This road was "to be operated by the power and force of steam, or animals, or any mechanical or other power;" and it was further provided that the company should not charge to exceed six cents per mile for carrying passengers, nor more than fifteen cents per ton per mile for transporting any species of property.

Although no road was built, the act is interesting as matter of history, for in it we find the first suggestion of a railway reaching Iowa.

On the 12th of June, 1838, President Van Buren approved an act dividing the Territory of Wisconsin and establishing the Territory of Iowa, which act went into effect on the 3d day of July following. Immigration was rapidly tending this way now that Black Hawk had laid down his arms, for the fame of the beauty and richness of Iowa's rolling prairies had reached far eastward. So rapidly did the population of Iowa Territory increase that in 1846 she was admitted to statehood. No bands of iron or steel at this time bound her east and west borders together, or held her in touch with older settlements to the eastward. Her methods of transportation were of the most primitive. The stage-coach and steamboat represented rapid transit, and the faithful ox-team gave slow but sure service. Iowa's fertile prairies were even at this time yielding a superabundance of food stuffs; she had also rich mines of lead and coal; but without an easier, cheaper and more rapid means of transportation these were valueless, ex-



Yours Truly  
Allen Stacks





cept in so far as they were needed for home consumption. Railroads from the far east were now pushing themselves westward, ever westward, carrying to isolated settlements many of the comforts and luxuries of a more refined and less strenuous life. But as yet no line had reached the Mississippi. Still there was railroad talk and there were schemes; but no actual work was done until 1852 when two roads germinated—the “Lyons and Iowa Central,” which put its men in the field locating, and the “Mississippi and Missouri” which organized, but did not begin operations that year.

Previous to this time all efforts had been toward the improvement of the inland waterways, but in this year, when the Fourth General Assembly convened at Iowa City (December 6, 1852) Governor Hempstead recommended that the Legislature “urge Congress to make a grant of public lands to aid in the construction of railroads in Iowa;” and at this session strong efforts were made to secure land grants to aid in the construction of several lines in the State. James W. Grimes, an influential member of the House from Des Moines county, was one of the most active in these efforts. A project to aid a line from Dubuque to Keokuk via Iowa City failed, but those friendly to east and west roads finally secured the passage of memorials for aid to three such trunk lines.

In 1850 a company had been organized in Iowa City to build a road from the Mississippi to that place. This organization was known as the “Iowa City and Davenport Railroad Company,” and later, having taken no steps toward construction, other than the making of a preliminary survey, its franchise was transferred to the “Mississippi and Missouri” company—after its organization in October, 1852,—on the condition that the road should be built through Iowa City. This transfer was made May 25, 1853. The “Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific” eventually secured this route, and in 1856 its road was completed to that point.

However, before the organization of the “Mississippi and Missouri” company in October, and before the recommendation of Governor Hempstead concerning land grants in December, 1852, the “Lyons Iowa Central” engineering corps

was in the field, locating its line from Lyons westward. I quote the following from the journal of my father, C. W. Irish, who was a member of that engineering party: "October 15, 1852. Today I entered the corps of engineers at work setting grade stakes on the Lyons Iowa Central Railroad. The party consists of the following persons: Mr. J. I. Wanzer, assistant engineer; C. H. Holbrook, as rodman; J. Wright, as teamster; Wm. Hunter, and myself as axemen." During the next two months Mr. Irish, then a youth of eighteen, worked back and forth several times between Iowa City and Lyons, serving for a time as chainman in Mr. Buck's party and then as rodman in R. P. Mendenhall's corps.

In January, 1853, Mr. Estes and party arrived at Lyons, after which Mr. Allen Slack, chief engineer, made different arrangements for the several parties under his charge. The winter of 1852-53 was not a very pleasant camping season. My father records that, "The winter has been a remarkably cold one, the thermometer standing several times at 18 and 20 degrees below zero. The Mississippi river is frozen to a greater depth than it has been for some time and the ground is cracked open in every direction."

As further proof of the priority of the Lyons Iowa Central work over that of any other railroad in the State, I cite the following from a recent letter to me from Hon. Peter A. Dey of Iowa City:

In the spring of 1853, while in charge of the construction of a division of the Chicago and Rock Island railroad in Bureau Valley, Illinois, I was instructed to make a survey of a railway from Davenport to Iowa City to be followed by a location as early as practicable. Before it was fully completed it was turned over to Mr. B. B. Brayton and I directed to make a survey to such point on the Missouri river as I deemed practicable for the starting of a line of railway to be extended up the Platte valley. My instructions in this regard were liberal. The haste to make this survey was occasioned by the fact that a line was being surveyed on practically the same route by the Lyons Iowa Central railroad company. This survey was being made by a Mr. Buck, a land surveyor living near Lyons. Having occasion to observe some of Mr. Buck's work I saw that his object was evidently to get as near as practicable an air line from one county seat to the next. This was usually followed

by a vote in every county in favor of issuing bonds to aid in the construction of the railroad. Under this plan bonds were voted, and, as I remember, issued in Clinton, Cedar and Johnson counties, and voted but not issued in Iowa, Jasper, Poweshiek and Polk counties. The haste in making the Chicago and Rock Island surveys seems to have been to prevent if possible the further issue of bonds by any other counties until something was definitely determined. At that time it was thought by parties interested in the Rock Island road that money could be procured from the securities of the road to build across the State of Iowa as soon as the conditions warranted. When I came into the State there was a strong feeling, particularly in Cedar, Poweshiek, Jasper and Polk counties, in favor of the Lyons Iowa Central project, which was stimulated by a railway campaign that put its orators in the field. The head and brains of this project was H. P. Adams, a gentleman I believe from Syracuse, N. Y.

Looking further for information regarding this first railroad work in Iowa, I find in the "First Annual Report" of the Lyons Iowa Central, an article from the *Chicago Democrat* of Feb. 4, 1854, concerning the "Galena Air Line" (a road then under construction by the "Galena and Chicago Union Railroad," "parent of the railroad system of Illinois") which was then completed to the village of Lane, in Ogle county, seventy-five miles west of Chicago. The article states:

The whole of the road is under contract and is to be completed to the Mississippi by the first of August next. At Dixon it crosses the main line of the Illinois Central and will furnish the people living on the line of that road, for many miles north and south of that point, direct railway communication with our city. At Fulton City it is said there is a fine point for crossing the Mississippi. The plan of the bridge places it one hundred feet above high water mark, and of course it would be no impediment to navigation. From Chicago to Fulton City the distance is 135 miles. There will be two daily passenger trains and one freight train leaving the city on the first of May next. The extension of the Galena Air Line westward is called the "Lyons, Iowa Central Railroad." Council Bluffs, on the Missouri, is the point to which several of the extensions of the roads from this city are aiming, and that is to be the western terminus of this road. It is under contract and the money is provided to build it to Iowa City, seventy-three miles. The distance from Lyons to Council Bluffs is 308 miles. It is to be completed to Tipton, fifty miles west of the Mississippi, by the first of October next. This part of the road is to be nearly an air line. Five hundred men are now at work upon the road. The country



through which it passes is as fine as any portion of the Mississippi valley and it may therefore be expected to add very much to the business and general prosperity of the city. It is to be completed to Iowa City by the first of April, 1855.

The "First Annual Report" of the Lyons Iowa Central railroad company is a very interesting document. The directors' report to the stockholders states that, "On the 14th day of February, 1853, the company was organized in accordance with the provisions of the law of Railroads and the Right of Way in the State of Iowa." A copy of this law is appended to the report and is signed by George W. McCleary, Secretary of State. The Report further tells us:

Subscriptions to the capital stock have been made as follows:

By individual subscribers.....	\$686,300
By Cedar county, in bonds.....	50,000
By Johnson county, in bonds.....	50,000
By Jasper county, in bonds.....	42,000
By Polk county, in bonds.....	150,000

Total .....	\$978,300
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There have been prepared for issue, and a mortgage has been executed on the first division of the road for the security of the payment thereof, 800 bonds of \$1,000 each, \$800,000. The individual and county subscriptions being a basis for the issue to this amount.

Assurances are made, and may be relied on with confidence, that six additional counties will subscribe for stock and authorize an issue of their bonds to an aggregate amount of \$500,000, making the present immediately prospective resources amount to \$2,278,300.

There is little doubt that the resources already secured, and the progress already made in constructing the road, will induce large individual subscriptions, as further means may be required.

There have been issued to contractors on account of grading and bridging, in bonds of the company, \$300,000. The residue of the bonds prepared for issue are in the hands of the executive committee, to be issued for work on the First Division, as progress shall be made thereon. The amount of grading and bridging done, as will appear by the Chief Engineer's report, is about \$200,000. Materials for superstructure, rolling stock and iron have been purchased to the amount of \$176,500, making the expense for work done and materials purchased on the first division amount to \$376,500.

The work is now steadily progressing with a winter force of about 430 men and a corresponding number of teams and implements. As soon as the frost shall be out of the ground, to admit of a vigorous

prosecution of the work, a sufficient force will be put on the line to bring that part of the first division as far west as Iowa City into running order as soon as possible.

The work of grading the second division, which extends westwardly to Fort Des Moines, will be commenced and prosecuted as rapidly as additional subscriptions to the stock of the company shall warrant.

The annexed reports of the chief and the consulting engineers are submitted as part of this report.

By order of the Board.

Wm. G. Haun, Vice-Pres.

Lyons, Iowa, Feb. 14, 1854.

The Board of Directors, chosen at the annual meeting, Feb. 14, 1854, were:

Thomas A. Walker, Fort Des Moines, Iowa.  
 James H. Gower, Iowa City, Iowa.  
 John Culbertson, Tipton, Iowa.  
 William G. Haun, Lyons, Iowa.  
 Derick Adams (N. Y.), Lyons, Iowa.  
 Hiram A. Tucker, Chicago, Ill.  
 Thomas Dyer, Chicago, Ill.  
 Paul B. Ring, Chicago, Ill.  
 David McCartney, Fulton, Ill.  
 Thomas T. Davis, Syracuse, N. Y.  
 Henry P. Adams, Syracuse, N. Y.  
 Abel Chandler, New York.  
 S. M. Allen, Boston, Mass.

The officers appointed to manage the business of the company during the year were:

Thomas T. Davis, President.  
 Wm. G. Haun, Vice-President.  
 W. E. Caldwell, New York, Treasurer.  
 James McCoy, Secretary.  
 Allen Slack, Chief Engineer.  
 William C. Young, Consulting Engineer.

From the report of Chief Engineer Slack to the Board of Directors, February 14, 1854, I take the following excerpts, which show the progress of the work and the estimated cost of construction between Lyons and Tipton; and show also, how new a country Iowa then was, especially that portion lying west of Iowa City. Mr. Slack says:

A survey was made early last spring and the fall previous, from Lyons to Iowa City, for the purpose of getting a general outline of the country.

On the third of May, 1853, I was directed to commence the location at the Mississippi river and to prepare it for grading. This was accordingly done, and the work commenced on the first 52 miles to Tipton.

From Tipton to Iowa City four lines have been run, and although a portion of the line next east of Iowa City has been located, and considerable work done, yet on account of the unevenness of the ground, I desire to make a more careful examination before submitting an estimate.

The survey west of Iowa City was commenced on the first of September, 1853, and in order to get through to Council Bluffs before cold weather there was no time to revise the line. This survey, however, I consider of great value, as furnishing data to indicate the final location. Portions of it, no doubt, will require little or no alteration, but as much will be susceptible of improvement. I considered it useless to prepare an estimate from the present notes, particularly as our services were so necessary elsewhere.

I would recommend that the whole line west of Iowa City be revised early in the spring, and that the country be more minutely explored on each side of the line, particularly on the north. . . .

The State of Iowa is more rolling and more cut up by small streams than the State of Illinois, and the direction of your line is not the most favorable for the feasible construction of a cheap road; but from all the information I can obtain your route is more favorable than can be found either north or south of it, and it is worthy of remark that at all the navigable streams which your line crosses, the grades are out of the reach of steamboat chimneys, while on either side of your route this would be impracticable. In addition to this advantage your route is peculiarly straight in direction from the Mississippi crossing to Council Bluffs. The grade of your road, as far as located, may be regarded as favorable for a maximum grade of 40 feet to the mile, there being no elevation at any one place exceeding 60 feet from the general level of the country.

As to directness, there is not one-eighth of a mile lost between Lyons and Iowa City, and for fifty miles east of Tipton there are only ten degrees of curvature, so that this part of your road can be safely run at a high rate of speed.

The total amount of excavation and embankment between Lyons and Tipton is 2,994,404 cubic yards. The paying amount is 1,723,688 cubic yards which are estimated to cost \$356,216.10. The culverts and bridges are estimated to cost \$34,283.90, making the cost of grading \$390,500.00.



After apportioning this total among the fifty sections of the division, Mr. Slack adds to it ten per cent. each for contingencies and engineering, and arrives at an estimated cost of grading per mile between Lyons and Tipton of \$9,372.00. For the 24 miles from Tipton to Iowa City he estimates the cost of grading, culverts, bridges, engineering and contingencies at \$360,000.00 or \$15,000.00 per mile, making a total from Lyons to Iowa City of \$826,600.00, or an average of \$11,197.29 per mile.

The country lying west of Iowa City is less favorable for the construction of your road than that on the east side, although no portion of Illinois or Iowa is better adapted to agricultural purposes than the section through which your line passes. In addition to the agricultural resources of this part of Central Iowa, capable of furnishing an immense freighting business, may be mentioned the extensive coal fields.

In view of the directness of the line through Central Iowa, and the advantages it possesses in regard to the several bridge crossings, I think there can be no doubt it will do the greatest share of through business, both in the conveyance of passengers and freight. In addition to the freight of Central Iowa that will seek an eastern destination, is the immense lumber trade from the Mississippi to supply the demand of Central and Western Iowa, which range of country, as well as the vicinity of Council Bluffs, is dependent on the Mississippi river for its supplies of pine lumber. This article alone will furnish a large western business.

No drawbridges will be necessary on the entire extent of your line.

Wm. C. Young, consulting engineer, in his report presented at the same meeting, concludes that "a capital outlay of \$30,000 per mile will suffice to construct and equip" the road. Of the proposed bridge over the Mississippi he says:

The expedient of a drawbridge, suitably elevated above the floods, may be adopted at Lyons as advantageously as at any other crossing of this great river, but in view of the preceding objections (obstruction to navigation and possible litigation resulting) and also the unavoidable delay and break of continuity in the line, and consequent danger to the trains, it may not be advisable to adopt such a plan of structure although less expensive than the other. A truss framed and arched superstructure of wood and iron combined, elevated 90 feet above high water, resting on piers 200 or 250 feet apart, would offer every attainable advantage for the purposes of your road. . . .

Another and a possible alternative may be found in the adoption of a suspension bridge of iron wire, at a sufficient elevation to avoid any obstruction to vessels. Suspension bridges for railroad purposes, although in process of construction in this country, may still be considered in a great degree as experimental. At Niagara Falls this kind of bridge is the only admissible mode of structure, and the one now being erected there will be fully tested during the present year. . . .

Of the Lyons bridge he says:

Two sections of 1,000 feet each over the waterway, and one section of 500 feet over the depression of the receding banks on each side, or six sections of 500 feet each, will span the entire valley at the grade line. One pier or even three within the waterway, will leave the openings so large as to offer no appreciable obstruction to the navigation of the river.

The site of the proposed bridge over the Mississippi is peculiarly favorable. The rocky bluffs on the banks of the river, exceeding 100 feet in height, bold and precipitous on the east side, and more sloping on the west, approach each other more closely at this point than at any other locality available for a railroad crossing. . . .

There will be sufficient time for all practical purposes to decide upon the particular plan of bridge after some degree of experience is gained from the actual use of the suspension principle at Niagara Falls, as applicable to railroad purposes. The operation of a draw bridge and the effect of piers will also be exemplified in the case of the proposed bridge over the Mississippi at Rock Island.

It is now more than fifty years since the submission of the above report. During this time the two bridges mentioned—the Draw at Rock Island and the Suspension at Niagara—have given daily evidence of their “feasibility” and their “practicability,” and yet the site for a bridge at Lyons, which the chief engineers of the Mississippi and Rock river road, also those of the Galena, Chicago and Union, united with those of the Lyons Iowa Central in pronouncing a favorable point for crossing, remains unoccupied.

Returning to Mr. Irish's journal for further information regarding the locating of the line, I read under the date of April 1, 1854:

I today commenced work in Mr. Allen Slack's corps, second division of civil engineers, as flagman. Heretofore I had served in the capacity of axe man. I have received my pay up to this date. The

personnel of the party at this time is as follows: Mr. Estes, Asst. Engineer; W. W. Peck, 2d Asst. Engineer; J. W. Olds, G. Wilder, J. E. Ennis, Mr. Byers, J. Winters, R. P. Mendenhall, J. D. McCall, J. Hagarty, Wm. Hunter, R. M. Brandenburg and myself.

April 11. Made ready this morning for a start in Mr. Estes' company to run a line from Iowa City west to Fort Des Moines. The morning was pleasant. We started out from camp and ran a curve commencing at 3941 west of Iowa river.

The records of the days that follow are records of work and of storm, of pleasure and of weariness, of bridging swollen streams, getting swamped teams ashore, and of the men appeasing their appetites with "fat pork and corn dodger for supper, and corn dodger with fat pork for breakfast," sometimes followed by a long day's work without water.

Hard as this railroad work seems to have been, there were yet many pleasant features about it, especially to those who easily made friends among strangers, and who had a love for Nature in her wildness. April 23d he records:

We retired last night with a clear sky over our heads, and the stars shining ever so brightly. We were soothed to repose by the tree toads' melancholy wail and the pheasants' kettledrum accompaniment. We slept and snored away until about four A. M., when we were rudely awakened by the bass notes of bellowing thunder. The wind began to blow hard, causing our tent to creak, snap and groan. We roused out to secure it, the rain meanwhile pouring down upon us in torrents. By sunrise the clouds had cleared out of sight and the day became very warm. From the number of snakes killed near our tent we have named the place Snaky Hollow, and the grove—in compliment to the Pennsylvanians—Juniata grove.

The line as located by Mr. Estes' party started westward from Iowa City, passed about six miles south of Marengo, Iowa county, thence west to Sugar Grove, on the line of Poweshiek and Jasper counties, where were found, as the journal states, "the purest of spring water, plenty of grass for our beds and our horses, and enjoyable shade from the trees." This grove on the head waters of Sugar Creek, was reached early in May and here Camp No. 11 was made, of which Mr. Irish says:

The first night therein was hideous because of the howling of a pack of hungry, gray timber wolves which were stationed not far

from our tents and kept up their concert and depredations most of the night. They were daring and ferocious. To satisfy their appetites they killed and ate one of our saddle horses. One of the boys, new to camp life and unacquainted with the diet preferred by wolves, suggested during the night that we had better bring in the potatoes which were left outside, as the wolves might eat them. Ha, ha! He will get his eyes opened!

May 15. Crossed the North fork of the Skunk river and are now entering in the midst of a Congregationalist colony. They have a large tract of land entered here. After the tragic death of our horse we have been careful to guard our animals day and night, and have reduced the number of wolves somewhat by the use of strychnine, which we obtained from some trappers. We have seen occasional deer and elk in this region.

May 21, Sunday. Bright and clear. While at breakfast we were surprised by a visit from a well-dressed gentleman who, after enquiring our business and destination, told us that he was a Congregationalist minister, that his name was Grinnell, and that but a few days before he, with a colony of people from New England and New York, had landed upon the heads of Sugar Creek to found a settlement in Poweshiek county. He took deep interest in our work and the advancement of the country, but because it was Sunday did not care to talk much of business. He invited us to come and hear him preach at two o'clock this afternoon, and pointing out the top of a large oak tree said the services would be held under that tree. We went at the appointed hour and heard for the first time in our experience, divine services resounding through the grove and awakening its echoes.

May 22. Today passed Mr. Grinnell's quaint log cabin nestled among the trees upon a little knoll. Have made a sketch of it.

This cabin, which is pictured in the Iowa Historical Record, October, 1896, was the embryo of the present college town of Grinnell.

While the Estes locating party were approaching Fort Des Moines those working east of Iowa City were racing with the Rock Island, which was doing effective work between Davenport and Iowa City, on what had been known as the Mississippi and Missouri route, and a great spirit of rivalry existed between the Rock Island men and those of the Lyons party. When the Lyons boys in their rush used any sort of material at hand for stakes, the Rock Island boys taunted and jeered and called attention to the fine oak stakes they were using. The Lyons boys retorted, "Of course the Rock Island should



use something permanent, for it would be years before its track was laid if ever."

With jibes and jokes the opposing companies kept the attention and interest of the citizens, who were ready to applaud whichever won the race.

Thus, with varied and interesting experiences, during the years '52, '53 and '54 the Lyons Iowa Central was located to Des Moines; but was destined never to measure its length with iron rails, nor span the navigable streams with bridges "out of the reach of steamboat chimneys!"

That he who laughs last laughs best was fully exemplified in this contest, for the Lyons Iowa Central boys, in June, 1854, were all laid off indefinitely, many of them without recompense for their months of weary toil. What caused this sudden collapse of a project that seemed so flourishing, and was so well boosted financially by the communities through which the road was projected, was not quite understood then by the men in the field, and after a lapse of 55 years, cannot be fully determined now. The little evidence obtainable points to misappropriation of funds by some trusted party or parties, near the head of the company. Mr. Dey, in his interesting letter on the subject, says that one of the board of directors for the road, "H. P. Adams, of Syracuse, N. Y., was a fugitive from justice at the time that he was making his strong campaign through the counties of Iowa, encouraging the issue of railroad bonds," in proof of which he tells the following story:

General Ney, a member of Congress from the Syracuse district, came to Chicago, called at the Rock Island office and while there stated he was in the West for a requisition to arrest Mr. Adams and take him back for trial in New York. This Mr. Adams was the one who had, as I have before stated, the machinery at work for obtaining for his road county bonds which pliant County Judges—as the plan was popular—readily issued. Judge Lee issued the Johnson county bonds, although it was stated that he had pledged himself not to do so. . . .

It was generally believed, after the failure of Adams and his railway project, that with the county bonds he had made his peace with General Ney. At all events this gentleman entered heartily into the railway campaign in Adams' behalf, and being a popular orator,

his services were very effective. I recall reading one of his reported speeches wherein he was advocating the advantages of a high bridge over the Mississippi river, a suspension bridge of nearly a mile span, where he used the following figure of speech: "The trains will cross the Father of Waters without detriment to the navigation of that noble stream. There will be no piers or other obstructions. Its abutments will be on the high hills. The good fellowship of the river and the railway will be shown as the locomotive laughs when the steamboat puffs in its face." As an orator at Tipton, on another occasion, his eloquence not exhausted, he uttered the following tribute to the man whom he had come into the West to arrest: "Caesar crossed the Rubicon to crush the liberty of Rome, H. P. Adams crossed the Mississippi to make the prairies blossom as the rose." It was said that General Ney went home happy and his clients were satisfied.

Following his reminiscence regarding Adams, Mr. Dey again says:

I think it was in June, 1854, that Mr. Adams, having used all of his resources, withdrew his men from the field, many of his contractors unpaid and his popularity gone. It is possible that Mr. Adams hoped, by getting bonds from all the counties between Lyons and the Missouri river, that he could form a basis that would enlist enough capital to build the road; if so his plans were certainly sanguine. It was generally believed, after his failure to accomplish anything, that it was a cold-blooded scheme to rob the counties and, after getting their bonds, pocket the proceeds and decamp.

When the collapse came it was a severe stroke, not only to the locating engineers but to the construction men as well. Between Lyons and Iowa City much if not all the road-bed had been completed. This grading work had been done by a large gang of Irish immigrants who had been brought from New York and Canada for the purpose. These men, with their families, some 2,000 persons in all, were now stranded at Lyons and vicinity, practically helpless and enduring great hardships. The railway company had supply stores at Lyons from which were issued to the graders—in lieu of their wages—groceries, dry goods and miscellaneous articles; but these supplies were exhausted long before the indebtedness was cancelled. It was from these stores that the enterprise was derisively called, and is still known as, "The Calico Road."

Returning to the bond issue which a number of the counties

had made in favor of the Lyons road, and which produced litigation of long standing and intense interest, Mr. Dey tells us: "Later I met in Chicago, Paul B. Ring, who was in some way connected with the project (he was one of the Board of Directors) who offered the Johnson county bonds—the \$50,000 that had been issued—for \$35,000. These bonds the county afterward paid in full with ten per cent. interest from date of issue." The counties had resisted the payment of these bonds, and were sustained by the Supreme Court of the State; but an appeal being taken to the United States Supreme Court, it was held that although the law authorizing their issue might be questionable, the counties having sold them, and having received in pay thereof the consideration named in the bonds, could not be released from the obligation voluntarily incurred.

The final climax of the bond issue is told as follows by Mr. Gilbert Irish in his "History of Johnson County":

After years of discussion and litigation a convention of counties was called December 15, 1868. Delegates from Washington, Muscatine, Johnson, Jefferson, Lee, Cedar and Poweshiek counties met in the city of Muscatine. After a lengthy discussion the following preamble was adopted:

. Whereas, the recent decision of the Federal court, involving corporation railroad bonds in this State seems to us subversive of our authority and the dignity of our State courts, and dangerous to the rights and privileges of citizens of the State, if not a positive and unwonted encroachment upon the jurisdiction of the State courts, therefore. Resolved, that this convention recommends to the citizens of the several counties, and citizens interested in this railroad bond question, to pay all their taxes except the railroad tax, and refuse to pay that until all legal and practical remedies are exhausted.

Several other default resolutions were adopted, speeches were made by Hon. Rush Clark of Johnson county, Charles Negus of Jefferson, Robert Gower of Cedar and by ex-Governor Kirkwood, who said: "All will admit that we have a right to make our state constitution and laws just as we please, provided we do not trench upon the constitution of the United States. What value is this right if our courts cannot interpret the meaning of our constitution and laws."

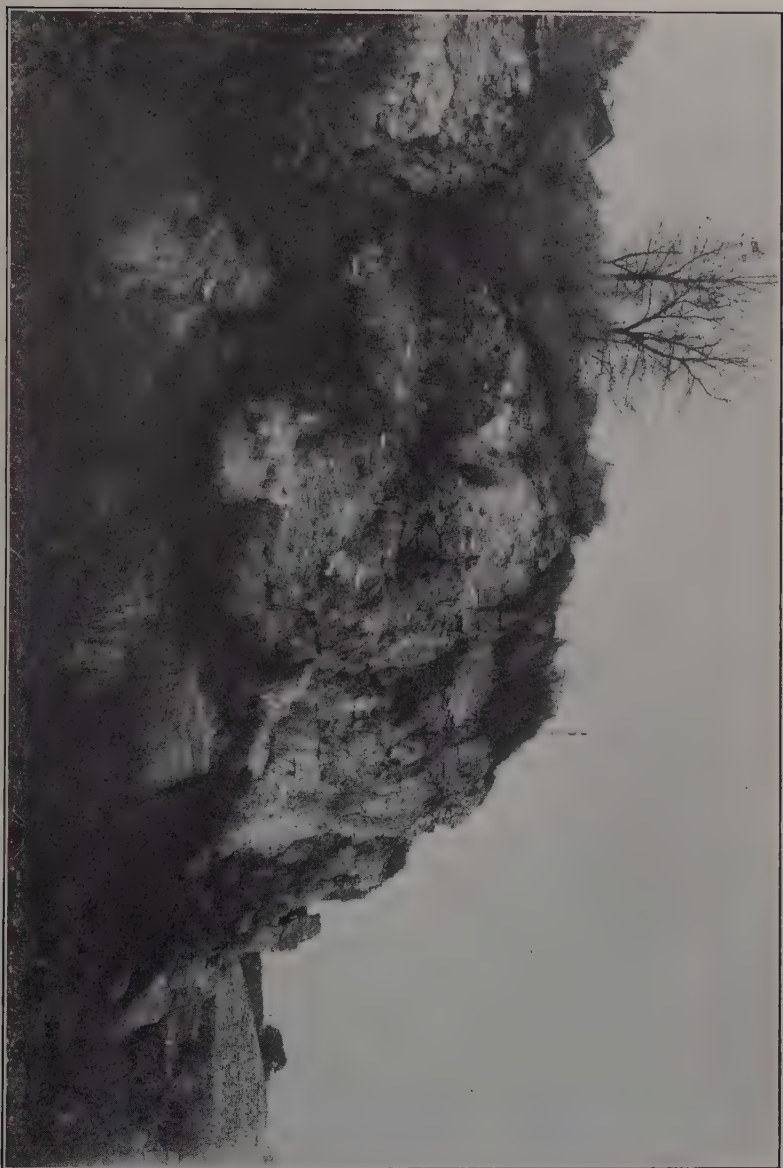
Still, like Banquo's ghost, the railway bonds would not down, and in the following May, 1869, a United States Marshal

came to Iowa City and arrested the Board of Supervisors and City Council on a warrant for contempt, and took them as prisoners to Des Moines. When the United States entered the field it soon closed the bond war. The terms of peace were brief and dictated by the victorious bond holders,—it was tax or prison, and tax it was for some years. And when the bonds were at last paid and the personal feeling had died out, it was discovered that meanwhile railroad building had gone rapidly on; so there was rejoicing, and general good feeling was restored. Also a permanent good had resulted, since in the Constitution of 1857, the people of Iowa, warned by this unhappy bond war, fixed the limit of indebtedness—State, county and city—at 5 per cent. of the taxable valuation. On the failure of the Lyons company all its property was sold at sheriff's sale, and so ended this ill-starred venture which, with transit and level, followed by pick and spade, did the first actual railroad work in the State.

On October 15, 1908, as it chanced just 56 years from the day on which my father began work for the Lyons road, I took my first trip over a part of its route. It was glorious October weather and the day, in every particular, was satisfactory for a pleasure excursion and conducive to a reminiscent mood. Accompanying me were the late Dr. P. J. Farnsworth, a pioneer resident of Clinton, who acted as guide, Mr. A. F. Ewers of Davenport, as photographer, and my son Charles.

We climbed first to the top of "Lone Grave Bluff," the highest and most abrupt point on the Mississippi at Lyons overlooking what is known as the "Narrows," and upon which the western end of the proposed suspension bridge was to have rested. After enjoying the magnificent outlook for a time, and securing views of this point, and of Fulton Bluff opposite, on which was to have rested the eastern end of the bridge, we started westward from the top of Lone Grave Bluff. We journeyed along at grade, through cut and across fill until we reached the "Big Cut" some three miles from the river, in the ravine beyond which, in 1854, a large culvert was built of handsome cream-colored stone, but of which culvert now not a stone remains. Built strong and true, it waited





Side view of Lone Grave Bluff, Lyons, Iowa, looking north.



vainly through the years to feel the weight of commerce upon its strong back, and might still be waiting and wasting in vain had not the citizens of Lyons, after the failure of the road, shifted their interest and zeal from commercial to religious matters. Under the leadership of an Episcopal clergyman, Mr. Beers, who came among them from the East about 1857, a goodly congregation was formed, and soon there was need for a church building. The panic of 1857 made funds scarce, but that did not deter the faithful. Material was at hand in the abandoned culvert, and energetic hands soon had it metamorphosed from a burden bearer into a temple wherein men should learn to obey the command: "Bear ye one another's burdens." This was the first church erected in Lyons. It is still in use and in good repair. We took a photograph of the culvert site, and on our way home secured a good picture of the church.

Stretching westward from Lyons the old road-bed, we were told, can still be traced for forty miles or more; but our appetites being keen and our feet tired, we closed our tour of inspection at the historic culvert.

Later I visited points on the road-bed that are still visible at Iowa City, prominent among which are a big cut just outside and north of the Catholic cemetery, and a remnant of embankment at the head of Dubuque street which was to have formed the approach to the proposed bridge over the Iowa river. Soon these historic evidences of the Lyons road will be gone, as are the men who wrought and suffered loss and disappointment in its work. As the laborer is worthy of his reward it is gratifying to realize that not a few of the men who bravely met defeat in this venture afterward attained distinction in their chosen profession. Prominent among these were Messrs. J. I. Wanzer, J. L. Estes, Allen Slack and Charles W. Irish. Of the after history of the two former I have as yet been unable to get definite data.

Mr. Slack, the Chief Engineer, was a native of Vermont, and a graduate of the University of that State, where he took a course in civil engineering. After graduation he went to New York, where he was employed on the Erie Canal until

called west to take a position on the Illinois Central. Later he was sent into Iowa as Chief Engineer to locate the Lyons Iowa Central, making his home at Lyons. In 1880 he accepted a call to the Southern Pacific. Here he labored with eminent success until failing health forced him to retire to his Oakland home, where he died in 1888. To Mr. Slack's early work in Iowa, Hon. Peter A. Dey pays this tribute: "He succeeded Mr. Buck and made locations that were creditable, and were adopted west of Iowa City in some places by the Rock Island company when their road was built."

Mr. Irish, although sharing defeat with the Lyons Iowa Central in its race with the Rock Island to Iowa City, had the pleasure a few years later, as locating engineer for the Northwestern, of helping to win the race to the Missouri river, which gained for this road the carrying of the U. S. mails, and of all the materials to be used in the construction of the Union Pacific; and resulted also in securing for the Northwestern the Congressional land grant of 1856 which had first been voted by the legislature to the Lyons Iowa Central.

Born in the Empire State in 1834, Mr. Irish was reared and educated in Iowa, to whose development he contributed not a little both as scientist and civil engineer. After many years of successful railroad building throughout the great West he was appointed by President Cleveland, Surveyor General of the State of Nevada, and afterward was made Chief of the Bureau of Irrigation, which necessitated his removal to Washington, D. C. Returning later to his home in Nevada he resumed his engineering work there, and died at Hope Gulch, Elko county in 1904.

In arranging his effects for removal to Nevada, he gave me, among other papers, his Lyons Iowa Central note book, on the last page of which stands recorded: "To 104 days work as second assistant Engineer for L. I. C. Ry., at \$2.00 per day, \$208.00, by loan to the President of the Co. \$52.00, sum total of indebtedness to C. W. Irish, \$260.00, which I never expect to get." And he never did.

For the data collected in this paper I am indebted chiefly to my father's notes and the published report of the pro-



jected road; also to Mrs. Ella Slack McIntyre of Oakland, Cal., to the late Dr. P. J. Farnsworth, of Clinton, Iowa, Hon. Peter A. Dey of Iowa City, ex-governor Gue's History of Iowa, and the History of Johnson County by Hon. G. R. Irish. I wish also to acknowledge my indebtedness to Prof. A. F. Ewers of Davenport and Miss Jane T. Irish of Iowa City for photographs of interesting points on the old road bed.

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## THE OLD-TIME TRAPPER.

TACITUS HUSSEY.

The creeping on of civilization during the last seventy years has wrought many marvelous changes. The man with the buckskin suit, the long rifle, the double-barreled shot gun, with the sheath knife and the hand axe dangling at his belt, silent during his busy hours, except when spoken to; yet garrulous enough over an evening pipe lighted at the camp-fire, has passed away from the Middle West. If he exists at all, it is in the land of the setting sun, or on the borders of the frozen lakes of the almost limitless Northwest.

It was from the lips of an old trapper, Landon Hamilton—who seemed like an unbended bow, relaxed from its strain—that I gained my information for this article, including the modes of trapping game in the months containing the “R’s” now usually associated with the “oyster season.”

Iowa was originally part of the territory which formed a grand hunting and trapping ground for the Red Man, with his primitive weapons and traps, and later, for the pale face with the more modern weapons with which to kill and capture without thought of the morrow, all food and fur-bearing animals coming within range of the deadly rifle and the lure of the concealed steel trap.

The fur and food animals, in those early days, were the deer, wild turkey, pheasant, squirrel, wild goose, brant, duck, otter, beaver, wolf, mink, muskrat, raccoon, with an occasional black bear. Trappers usually had from forty to fifty steel

traps of different sizes. To these were added the "medicine" used to put on the bait to lure the animal to the trap. This "medicine" was a mixture of aniseed oil, asafetida and musk, mixed with fish-oil; a highly perfumed concoction, as the writer can testify. A drop or two of this mixture placed on the bait, or sprinkled near it, generally attracted a victim. Sometimes, in order to form a "trail," a small quantity of this mixture would be placed in a small sack, perforated with a few fine holes and dragged on the ground by the trapper when he visited his traps, and it always yielded good results.

The mink has a passion for rummaging in the leaves and fine grass, and is often taken by a steel trap, artfully concealed under a light covering of fallen leaves, which must be scattered in the most natural way, to disarm suspicion. Should his instinct instruct him that any other hand than Nature's had placed the thin covering over the trap he will carefully avoid it. For otter, a steel trap well smeared with aniseed oil is a very taking bait, the oil being a perfume they cannot resist. Otters are fond of sliding down hill, and a trap half buried on one of their slides during the winter, or at the foot of it, under the surface of the water, near the entrance to their burrow, will very often enrich the trapper by two or three catches before the season is over.

The muskrat is fond of a plant called "stinkwort," and a trap baited with a frog or mussel, with a drop or two of the decoction made from this plant, is a sure decoy. Sometimes the trap is set below the surface of the water, and on a twig or stick just above it is placed a dead frog or mussel. Climbing up or down for the coveted morsel, the muskrat is apt to get one of his feet upon the pan of the trap and fall a victim to his appetite. The muskrat is very fond of the fresh water shellfish. He has not the power to open one; but realizing that "all things come to him who waits," lays it on a log or stump, or on the shore until it opens of its own accord, letting "patience have its perfect work." Sometimes traps are concealed under water near their burrows, with chain of sufficient length to allow the animal to reach deep

water and drown; otherwise he will gnaw his imprisoned leg off and escape.

Foxes are the slyest and most suspicious of all animals on the list, and the hardest to trap. The utmost care must be taken to cover up all signs of a man's presence, or his work will all be for naught. A trapper who can boast of capturing a dozen foxes during a single trapping season by the steel trap method is considered a very skillful trapper.

Central Iowa used to be famous for beaver lodges, dams and trapping, hence Polk county has a Beaver creek and a Beaver township. The "beaver lodges" here, consisted of families of from ten to twenty members and afforded good catches in those earlier days. They seemed to be reasoning animals. If the wiser ones of the family detected too many absentees at roll call they would sound the alarm and the entire family would desert its lodge and dam and depart to a safer locality. Traps were generally set close to the banks near the dams, covered carefully with moss. A small portion of "castoreum" was placed on the bank just above the trap, and the search for this often caused a beaver to place his foot on the concealed pan which springs the trap. Then there was a rush for deep water; but the chain attached to the trap and fastened to a weight or a pole, allowed sufficient length to the tortured animal to reach the deep water and drown. There have been many beaver dams on the various streams of Iowa.

Raccoon river had many of these dams. "Gray's Lake," within the corporate limits of Des Moines, where now stands the Great Western car office, was once the bed of Raccoon river; but the beavers built a dam at the lower end of it, and in time, turned the channel in another direction. Fifty years ago there were still traces of the dam to be seen, as also stumps and logs of cottonwood trees cut down by these industrious little animals, whose chisel-shaped teeth grow as fast as worn off by contact with the wood.

Mr. George C. Duffield, of Keosauqua, Iowa, who visited this region in 1838-40, says that five miles from the "Raccoon Forks," on the Raccoon river, he found a very scientifically

constructed beaver dam, so wide and compactly built that it might have been possible to ~~have ridden~~ a horse across it. Having seen many of these dams during his pioneer life in Iowa, he pronounced the "beaver dam," a few miles above the spot where the future capitol of a great State was to stand, the finest he had ever seen. These dams may account, to some extent, for the crookedness of the Raccoon river.

As has been mentioned, Beaver creek, which empties into the Des Moines river a few miles above the city of Des Moines, was famous for its beaver dams in the earlier days, and afforded the pioneer trapper profitable work for the winter months. The mounted beavers in the Historical Department Museum, were caught on this creek. At a point where Twelfth street would cross the Des Moines river, if extended in a northerly direction, there was a famous beaver dam, the remains of which could have been seen fifty years ago, and it is known even to this day by the old boatmen, as the "old beaver dam." As described by an old pioneer who saw it fifty-three years ago: "The dam seemed to have been formed by felling two trees, on opposite sides of the river. These trees falling into the river and not being entirely severed at the stumps, made the foundation. Then there was a long row of stakes, or pieces of wood about four inches in diameter, sunk in the mud and standing upright, very close together, reaching entirely across the river. These stakes seemed to have been settled in the mud in some way only known to the little dam builders. Fine brush was then woven in between the stakes, with soil on the upper side to make it compact and solid, which rendered it almost water-tight. The apex of the structure was up stream, the better to resist the pressure. It was deserted at the time I saw it, but was in a fair state of preservation. I have often regretted since, that I did not preserve a stick or two showing the cuttings of these industrious little animals."

There were many of these dams on the smaller streams, constructed when the water was low. When the "break up" came in the spring they formed obstructions, and being strong enough in many cases, to resist ice and flood wood, caused



new channels to be made. This will account, in some degree, for the crookedness and the many deserted channels of some of the smaller streams.

The raccoon was trapped in large numbers, sometimes by steel traps, sometimes by the "dead fall," set and operated by the figure-4 triggers, baited with a frog, bird or part of a quail, with a drop of "medicine." These traps were set along the small streams which abound in crayfish and frogs. The raccoon is a nocturnal ranger, and frequents the smaller streams. He examines everything closely, sticking his paw down a crayfish hole, in the hope of finding his victim asleep. When a frog is captured he rolls it on the ground with both forefeet, very leisurely, as a woman kneads dough for baking. After having sufficiently elongated, or "tendered" the tidbit, it is devoured with much gusto.

There are few boys or men living in a timbered country who have not spent an occasional night, during the fall of the year, in hunting the wary 'coon with a pack of well-trained dogs. A couple of axes, a gun, and good running qualities are the only requisites. When the nocturnal prowler comes out of his hole in a hollow tree during the night, in search of food, the dogs run across his trail, and after a chase of a few miles he takes to a tree and is either shot by moonlight or the tree is cut down and the pack is upon him at once. He makes a brave fight for his life, but yields to superior force. The hunters are richer by one pelt, and hie the dogs on in search of another victim. A well regulated "coon hunt" covers a distance of eight or ten miles, through bush and brake, over streams and through dense thickets, to the damage of clothing and shoe leather. Would it be any wonder if the father, sons, hired man and pack, were troubled with "that tired feeling" for a day or two? And would a sensible wife grumble if all hands were a little late to breakfast for a morning or two following the "hunt?" But the man of the house can point to four or five "coon skins" stretched and drying on the end of the barn; so "honors are easy!"

In the autumn, Mr. Landon Hamilton would begin to grow restless, "homesick," he used to call the feeling which was

really an intense hunger for the solitude of the woods. Early in October he would begin to get his steel traps in order, overhaul his long rifle and double-barreled shot gun, buy his ammunition, place his powder, especially, in water-proof tin cans, buy such provisions as he thought would be needed for his five months' exile, and hiring a teamster, would depart for a place he had selected by hearsay, or an actual visit, and bid adieu to civilization.

Long before his destination was reached the trapper was all eyes and ears for "signs." Many times he would make detours to examine the bed of a small stream for mink and raccoon tracks. He would search among the leaves for the "droppings" of fur-bearing animals, or notice the trunks of smooth-barked trees for "bear-scratchings." All these forest signs were as familiar to the trapper as if they were a printed page. When the sought-for place, which was generally on the shore of some good-sized stream was reached, the implements and supplies were unloaded and the trapper began at once to construct his winter lodge. A bluff was usually selected, and an excavation made in the side of the hill. Then four or six forked posts were set in the ground, with cross poles to support the roof. The fireplace was made of stones with a perpendicular opening to serve as a chimney, which was sometimes built up part of the way of stones, sticks and mud. The roof was generally of linden, or oak bark. The sides of the lodge not protected by the bank, had wooden stakes driven in the ground two feet apart, into which were woven or "wattled" very firmly, small branches of the pliant willow, which, when well done, made a very compact wall. These walls were extended across the front, leaving a narrow opening which served as a doorway. This opening was covered with a blanket or water-proof canvas. A hole was dug in the side of the hill in which the potatoes were placed beyond the reach of the frost, two forked posts were driven near the door with a cross piece, upon which the camp kettle was hung, to serve on days when a "boiled dinner" was desired, and the trapper felt very much at home.

With the completion of the lodge, came the beginning of the winter's work. A tour of inspection was made, after which forty or more steel traps were baited and placed. These were visited morning and evening. When an animal was caught it was killed as soon as possible and the trap rebaited and reset. During the day the trapper spent his time in skinning his prizes and stretching the pelts in a way to make them most valuable in the market. It was necessary to mark the spots where the traps had been set so that the trapper could find them in case of a fall of snow, which changes the woods and landscape in the most bewildering manner. This was done sometimes by "blazing" a tree near the trap, or breaking a branch or two on some tree which pointed in the direction of the trap.

His evenings were spent by the fire with pipe, in study, or listening to the voices of the night. Sometimes the whispering of the winds among the branches formed words and sentences as they sent down their dead and dry leaves in showers on the bark roof of the lodge. Sometimes an inquisitive owl on a tall tree not far away would ask, "Who-who-whoah?" And getting no answer, would laugh, in owl fashion: "Ah-ha-ha-ha-h-a-h-a-h!" Or perhaps a belated flock of geese on their way to the southland, repeated their good-by honks, to the land which was soon to be in the reign of the "Frost King!" Then there was the ceaseless plash of the stream singing its soothing song to the dreamer in the lodge, knowing well that in a few days its voice would be hushed in an icy sleep only to be awakened by the kiss of the spring sun and melting showers.

Tobacco is a solace and a soother of nerves in these solitudes, and woe be to the man, who, by any mishap lost his supply during those months of solitude. On one occasion the trapper found on returning to his lodge, that a venturesome cow had pushed aside the door covering, and stood on the outside chewing, without a grimace, a goodly stock of his smoking tobacco. He recognized it at once by the strings on the tobacco bag, which she had not the presence of mind to conceal in her mouth. A sharp chase followed and the

pursuit was so warm that the tobacco was recovered, but in a moist condition. However, it was dried by the fire and served its purpose very well; for trappers as a general thing are not very particular in regard to what they eat, drink or smoke. A hungry fox or wolf might forage on his stock of frozen pheasants or quails and not a kick would be made; but his tobacco—that was as precious as gold.

Sometimes a month or so would pass and a territory of three or four miles in diameter would be trapped over; but the catches, maybe, would grow smaller as the days passed by, and then the trapper would begin to consider moving farther up the stream. When this conclusion was reached he began to prospect for a new camp. When a location was found, if no teamster was to be had, he would have to carry his entire outfit to the place selected after the lodge was prepared, a load at a time. This was a slow and wearisome task, taking, while attending to his other duties, about eight days. As there was never a calendar in camp, Sundays did not count as days of rest. "Moving" might occur three times during a season, each move adding to his stock of pelts. And in some cases, when success did not crown his efforts on the stream he had chosen for his winter's work, he would return to civilization, and hiring a teamster make a new start in some other part of the territory. He did not fear to leave his camp alone for a few days; for it is an unwritten law of the woods never to molest a hunter's tent or a trapper's lodge. When the new territory was reached, business began as before.

Mr. Landon Hamilton, during his fifty years' trapping in Iowa territory, visited nearly every stream and locality in the present State of Iowa, which held out any prospect of a good catch of the fur-bearing animals. During this period he gathered many thousand dollars' worth of furs. His winter's catch would often amount to more than a thousand dollars, to say nothing of the hundreds of specimens found during his summer rambles among the hills and his winter sojourn along the streams of Iowa.

Skunk river was also a favorite trapping place, and several winters were spent there in hunting, trapping and fishing.



In company with an old-time friend, "Uncle Thomas French," a well-known character in the early days of Des Moines, he fell in with a tribe of Musquakies, now living on a reservation in Tama county, Iowa. This tribe of Indians was camped there and were engaged in their usual avocations. "Uncle Thomas French," as he often expressed it, "had no use for boys," and when an Indian boy offended him by his presence in camp, on a begging expedition, it may be, Mr. French gave him a violent shaking, and told him to "Puckachee!" (to git.) "Uncle French" was a large, grizzled, swarthy man, and generally wore a pair of spectacles about three sizes too big for him, which evidently struck terror to the heart of the boy, who ran with all possible speed to the Indian tepee. In order to explain the indignity visited upon him, he shook his father violently by the shoulder, exclaiming: "Big-Eye-Smoky-Face-Man say, 'Indian Puckachee!'" Mr. Hamilton explained the eccentricity of his guest, but the Indians were not satisfied and soon after left the vicinity, as they evidently believed the "Smoky-Face-Man" was one of the big chiefs of the territory. There was no retribution visited upon the two white trappers and they were left in full possession of the territory without further annoyance.

With the honk of the wild goose, seeking the northern lakes, the trapper began preparations for return to civilization. A teamster was procured and all the "duffle" which was to be brought back was piled into the wagon. The furs were carefully assorted and prepared for market, for the trapper well knew that the fur buyer would be on hand early in the spring to snap up the choicest of the catch and ship them to their eastern houses. The speculating fur buyer generally doubled his money; the manufacturer received a liberal slice; but the catcher, who had spent his winter in the woods, looked at the prices offered as being about "so much money found," and parted with his furs at low prices rather than run the risk of shipping them to St. Louis, Chicago or New York.

The last trip made by Mr. Hamilton, so far as known, was to some point down the Des Moines river, where he spent two or three months in examining some of the mounds from which

he took a choice assortment of prehistoric pottery and implements. A collection of these may be found in the Historical Department Museum as a part of the gift he made to the State during the last days of his life. At some point down the river he caught the "Lazy Ann," a nondescript steamboat, which landed him and his valuable finds at the "old steamboat landing," near the junction of the rivers. This was about 1884. Soon after that, the "Lazy Ann," in trying to pass under the C., R. I. & P. bridge at Vine street, struck one of the abutments and was hopelessly wrecked. Her hull lies there yet, well buried under the sand and drift of years.

With the fleeting decades come many changes. Game animals and birds are slowly but surely going the way of all the earth. Timber lands are being depleted and only recently have steps been taken to replenish them. Congressman Lacey, was one of the first to lift up his voice in Congress and ask for a stay of the hand of the destroyer, and that a portion of the wooded lands, lakes and streams be set apart for the preservation of the game and fur-bearing animals, birds and reptiles.

Let a stream be reserved where the beaver can build dams and cut food woods to his heart's content; where the buffalo may range, where the deer, the antelope, and the elk may herd, and where every animal known in former generations may find a safe refuge from the murderous hand of man. To carry a war of extermination on the four-footed and winged inhabitants of the earth is a crime, the effects of which will be felt in all coming generations; for surely, this blood wantonly shed, will be required at the hands of the people of America.





Exploration by the Historical Department of Iowa of the Boone Mound, near Boone, Iowa, April, 1908.



# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT

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### SYSTEM IN MOUND EXPLORATION.

From the advent of the white man into Iowa, the works of prehistoric peoples have elicited interest. They have formed a part of the written and printed comment on the country, and furnished a field for the exercise of healthy curiosity, as well as stimulated a desire for knowledge on this subject. Nearly every one of the ninety-nine counties has its published history and practically all of these contain accounts of local works of the Mound Builders. In different parts of the State and at various times in the course of our development, some serious effort has been made at thoroughly exploring mounds and carefully recording, preserving and reporting their disclosures. Much has thereby been added to our knowledge of these works, and many objects relating to these ancient peoples have thus been put within our reach for study. Many mounds worthy of consideration and of ample authenticity as work of the ancients, have been found vacant as to relics; a fact of value. But the reduction of the soil to the uses of agriculture has done much to lessen the opportunity to record their locations, contours and dimensions. Each year does more, and the time is near at hand when many works will be obliterated unless some systematic work is undertaken for their preservation. The ruthless digging by boys and curious men is not so serious. Results of even careless excavation may be made highly beneficial by prompt and diligent interviews, by the collection of objects and by other exercise of ingenuity.

We believe there is no one who does not wish a systematic exploration of the Iowa mounds. Certain scientists and one considerable religious body especially wish it. Every one is

less desirous of haste than of exactness in exploration and report. All recognize that immediate general beginning or constant work are impossible, but each effort should relate to all others. It is to accomplish the final and sufficient exploration, without loss of effort or opportunity that the Historical Department would urge upon all the adoption of its plan for operation.

Let some body or activity of the State have authority conferred upon it by which it can acquire and hold title, either in fee or for use, upon conditions for proper exploration or preservation. Let it be empowered to confer the privilege of such exploration upon any who apply and who disclose a willingness and ability to explore, record and report results uniformly with those of other exploring ventures elsewhere in the State. Let it guarantee the land owner against trespass during crop seasons and other inopportune times, and against loss of identity of his name with such contributions to knowledge as may result from his co-operation. On the other hand, let it guarantee the explorer against unnecessary expense and annoyance in doing his work. Let it go into the field, locate, prospect, make contour maps and all preliminary preparation where grounds are being disturbed. Let it guarantee the public the maximum of information in quantity and authenticity, and the care and distribution of this information. The result must inevitably be a thoroughness and uniformity of study and a permanence and reliability of exploration and report that cannot otherwise be accomplished surely and inexpensively.

The Historical Department has a standing welcome to many grounds that it must at present forego exploring for want of funds. It has found a universal interest in the work. Local students volunteer ample assistance for preliminary surveys, including the making of topographical charts, maps, borings, and the gathering of facts as to previous excavations. Everything, up to the actual handling of the dirt, and part of the cost of that, is often volunteered. No land owners, and few tenants are found, who object to, or obstruct work, especially with reasonable protection against waste, and assurance of

the restoration of the land surface. Had the Historical Department authority to receive gifts of realty, as it has of personality, it would be a ready and efficient servant in acquiring and holding for the use of present and future students rights and titles to fields of prehistoric interest. It could then more efficiently perform the duty of retrieving objects that are going from our State to enrich the collections of other States, and information that is disappearing with the first occupants of lands where mounds are situated. It could better assist both owner and explorer in making the most of their respective opportunities with the least of loss and waste.

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### SOLICITING CONTRIBUTIONS.

A most effective step towards acquiring materials for our collections was that taken by Charles Aldrich when he mailed to patriotic men and women of Iowa the circular given below. The situation today is essentially the same as it was when the circular was issued sixteen years ago, except that acquisitions are now deposited in the fire-proof building of the Historical Department.

#### HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA.

CHARLES ALDRICH, *Curator*.

Des Moines, .....1894.

This Department was established by act of the Legislature of 1892 for the promotion of historical collections pertaining to Iowa and the territory from which our State was set apart.

The Historical Rooms are in the basement story of the State House, are fire proof, and will be a safe depository for valuable books, files of newspapers, pamphlets, manuscripts, maps, charts, portraits and articles of value, illustrative of the history and progress of our State and its people.

Here it is desired to collect:

1st. A copy of all documents, papers or pamphlets, letters or manuscripts relating to early settlements in any part of Iowa; to the laying out of towns or cities, establishment of counties, changes of boundaries, establishment of or removal of county seats, with *exact dates* in all cases, if practicable.

2d. Well authenticated facts relating to the naming of any of the lakes, rivers, counties, cities and chief towns of Iowa, stating the origin, signification, and authors of such names; the dates, and any other interesting circumstances connected therewith.

3d. Personal narratives; the biographies of men or women who were among the early settlers in any part of Iowa, giving details of all facts of public interest; incidents of pioneer life, narratives of privations, sufferings, recollections of the various steps of progress in settlement, development and improvements, disasters, crimes, intercourse with Indians, appearance of the country when first seen, the wild animals, birds and reptiles found in early days.

4th. Copies of old Iowa newspapers, files of such papers up to the close of the War of the Rebellion; letters written by soldiers during the war; incidents connected with the organization of Iowa regiments, battalions, companies, of mustering into the service, leaving the state for the seat of war, camp, hospital, marching and battle incidents; life in southern prisons, sufferings, escapes and deaths of comrades. Lists of all known to have been in southern prisons.

5th. Every fact worthy of preservation relating to the various political party organizations from the earliest dates; doings of state political conventions, incidents of noted political campaigns and candidates.

6th. The name, date of establishment and brief history of all Academies, Seminaries, Colleges and Universities in Iowa. Names of founders, and of principals or presidents and dates of term of service, *catalogues and other publications*.

7th. The names of all newspapers and periodicals ever published in your county, together with the date of their establishment, name of editor and proprietor, and the various changes of name and paper and other facts of interest relating thereto.

8th. Brief history of organization of agricultural and other industrial societies, county or state, names of their projectors, plan of work, etc. The date of entry of first railroad in your county, name of the company building it, and number of roads and miles of railroad since built.

9th. Photographs or other portraits, and short sketches of the life of any notable man or woman who has ever been a prominent citizen of your town or county, and especially those who have served in the army in any way.

10th. Letters, diaries, commissions of officers, newspaper articles in war times, histories of companies and regiments, arms or equipments used in any of the wars, battle-flags, etc.

11th. Heretofore Iowa has been a free foraging ground for collectors of prehistoric stone and bronze implements for other states



and countries. Neither the State nor any of our institutions possesses a collection of these implements worthy of the name. We are most anxious to gather in such as may still be left. We shall be glad to receive single specimens, or information as to where any may be had. Full and permanent credit will be given for all donations or other aid in this direction. Send to the State Historical Department the stone axes, hatchets, mauls, pestles, arrow and spear heads, and do not allow them to be wasted by scattering them elsewhere.

12th. Official State documents previous to 1860 have become very scarce, and we shall be glad to have any of them to complete our files.

13th. IN SHORT we want all circulars, pamphlets, political speeches, lectures, sermons, books or manuscripts, referring to Iowa or the West, or prepared by Iowa men or women on any subject at any time or place.

14th. We want a copy of all city ordinances, proceedings of public meetings, reports of boards of trade, plats and maps of Iowa towns and cities, photographs or engravings of public buildings of Iowa or western historic places, and drawings, paintings or portraits relating in any way to Iowa or to Iowa people.

15th. We want especially any arms, household implements, or ornaments in use among any of the Indian tribes which have at any time inhabited Iowa; also recollections of the Iowa Indians by any of the pioneer white settlers. Any thing relating to this rapidly disappearing race will possess deep interest to future generations.

Where owners of rare documents or valuable relics do not wish to dispose of them, they may be willing to deposit them in our fire-proof rooms where they will be secure from loss or destruction and carefully preserved, with the name of the owner attached, subject to withdrawal at any time.

Citizens of Iowa: Will you not take a State pride in helping to build up a great Historical Department at the Capital, by loaning or contributing such treasures as may come into your possession illustrative of the past history, the progress of civilization, and the natural resources of our State and its people.

Address letters or contributions to the HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT OF IOWA, at Des Moines.

When you are in Des Moines come to the State Historical Rooms.

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

MARTIN H. CALKINS was born near Mexico, Oswego county, New York, September 15, 1828; he died in Wyoming, Jones county, Iowa, September 28, 1909. He was of Puritan ancestry. He attended the common schools of his native county, in which he served as a school teacher at the age of seventeen. He began his medical studies in the office of the local doctor in Oswego, pursued them in the college of medicine at Geneva, completing his course in the medical university of the City of New York. He began the practice at Constantia, New York, continuing until 1856, when he removed to the state of Iowa, beginning his practice anew on June 14, 1856, at Wyoming, where he made his final residence. Upon the lot where he erected his first dwelling he continued to reside, though afterward in a much more pretentious house. In 1862 he acted as mustering officer and as such mustered into the State militia a company of eighty-nine men, which afterward formed Company K of the 24th Iowa Infantry. He also acted as one of the commissioners who took the vote of the Iowa soldiers in the field in 1862-3. Dr. Calkins was unanimously chosen as mayor of Wyoming. In 1881 he was nominated by the Republicans of Jones county as their candidate for Representative in the Iowa House, the Democrats making no nomination and causing his unanimous election. He was re-nominated to be his own successor and was given a large majority against strong opposition. He was appointed on the committees of ways and means, insurance, penitentiary at Anamosa and medicine and surgery. To him is accredited the leadership in securing statutes for oil inspection and for most effective support for the prohibitory law. He was no seeker after political honors, and returned to the comfort of private life upon the completion of his second term as Representative. He kept memoranda of passing events and wrote rather fully on the early days in Jones county. He was distinguished for his fairness, and both the gentleness and strength of his character.

LAWRENCE MARSHALL BYERS was born at the Chateau of Bocken, near Zurich, Switzerland, on August 18, 1872; he died in London, England, July 7, 1909. He was the son of Major and Mrs. S. H. M. Byers. His birth occurred during the residence of his father in Switzerland as United States Consul. He was first taught by private teachers, and then entered the select academy of Count Benst, where he acquired perfect knowledge of the continental languages and prepared for college. His education was continued in Penn College, a Quaker institution at Oskaloosa in 1885, from which he was graduated at the age of seventeen. Here he won the scholarship for Haverford College, Philadelphia, where he took the course in astronomy and received the degree of A. M. He attracted the attention and favorable remark of Professor Simon Newcomb, the celebrated astronomer. He was offered employment by the Government, but turned his attention to the law, taking up the course in Roman law at the University of Zurich. He returned to America, entered Yale Law School and graduated with special honors. He entered the practice in the city of Des Moines, from which he was

called to a chair in the law department of Drake University and later to the law department of the State University at Iowa City. In his work at the State University he achieved success as professor of practice and pleading, and as presiding judge of a most successful moot court. Professor Byers had started upon a tour of Europe and especially upon a visit to his birthplace, when he was seized with an acute disease from which he sought relief at the hands of a London dentist. He died after an operation without returning to consciousness. His body was brought to America and after a funeral service at St. Helens, the home of his parents at Des Moines, was buried on July 26th at Forest Cemetery, Oskaloosa.

ORLANDO H. MANNING was born at Abingdon, Wayne county, Indiana, May 14, 1848; he died at Atlantic City, N. J., September 19, 1909. In 1854 he removed with his father, Rev. Joseph Manning, to Adel, Dallas county, Iowa, and four years thereafter to Linn county, where he attended Western College, afterward Leander Clark College, at Toledo. In 1868 he taught school and read law at Jefferson, Greene county. He was admitted to the bar in 1868, and removed to Carroll and engaged in the lumber business. He began about this time the publication of the *Enterprise*, a newspaper at Jefferson, which was discontinued upon the establishment of the *Herald*, which he purchased in 1870 and owned for four years. He served as county treasurer for one term; was elected representative in the General Assembly from the district composed of Greene, Carroll, Calhoun and Sac counties. He was chairman of the committee on judicial districts, and as such reported the bill which became a law, establishing the Fourteenth Judicial District. He was re-elected to the House and became chairman of the committee on railroads, reporting the bill for the establishing of the Board of Railroad Commissioners. In the repeal of the "Granger Law" Mr. Manning had charge of legislation in the House. He was elected Lieutenant-Governor in 1881 and again in 1883. He removed to Council Bluffs in 1885; became a candidate for the nomination for Congress, losing the same to Joseph Lyman by a small margin. He removed to Topeka and later to Denver in his practice as corporation counsel. In 1889 he removed to Chicago, where for some years he had a large legal practice. The last several years of his life were spent at his home in the city of New York. He established the bank at Carroll and assisted in founding the town which bears his name, Manning.

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LARKIN MORRIS MARTIN was born at Point Pleasant, Virginia, Dec. 6, 1853; he died at Chicago, Sept. 18, 1909, and was buried at Pella, Iowa. His parents removed to Iowa when he was one year of age, settling in Marion county. From the time he was old enough to work until 1870, he helped on his father's farm. He then went to Pella, where he was engaged in the *Blade* office for one year, when he went to Prairie City and learned telegraphy. In May, 1872, he was appointed agent for the old Des Moines Valley Railroad at Comstock, remaining a representative of that branch when the same was absorbed by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad. He became general agent of the St. Louis, Des Moines and Northern in 1882, and later became general manager of its purchaser the Des Moines and Northern R. R. Under his management, the latter, a narrow gauge road, was made a standard gauge. Leaving its employ

he became manager of the Iowa Central. His last work was as president of the Kankakee Railroad, an interurban line in an active Democrat in politics, and was securing the election of Governor Boies, colonel. He was one of the strongest leaders as Gold Democrats.

road for some years. Salle, Galesburg and Mo. Col. Martin was effective force in pro- those staff he served as in 1896 of those known

ANSEL KINNE BAILEY was born in Walpole, Erie county, New York, November 18, 1835; he died at Decorah, Iowa, September 20, 1909. He was the son of Wesley and Eunice (Kinne) Bailey, and the grandson of Rev. Elijah Bailey. He was educated in the public schools of Utica, N. Y. He became connected with the publication of a newspaper owned by his father in his native town, but removed to Decorah, Iowa, in 1860, where he began the publication of the *Decorah Republic*, which afterward became and still remains the *Decorah Republic*. The enterprise was a co-partnership between Mr. Bailey and his father, afterward between himself and a brother and still later between himself and a son. He was elected treasurer and recorder of his county in 1863, was appointed postmaster by President Grant in 1869, serving for sixteen years. He was elected to the Iowa Senate from Winneshiek and Howard counties in 1889. He was made chairman of the committee on federal relations, whose chief accomplishment was its part in providing representation of Iowa at the Columbian Exposition. In the Twenty-fourth General Assembly Senator Bailey was in charge in the Senate of the drafting of the Australian ballot law. His draft was concurred in by the House and became, and remains with slight amendments, the law.

HIRAM C. WHEELER was born at Hopkinton, N. H., May 10, 1835; he died in Chicago, September 25, 1909. He removed with his parents to Chicago when he was one year old, where he received his education. For some years he was a resident of California. He came to Iowa about the year 1866, purchasing some six thousand acres of land in Sac county, on which was laid out the town of Odebolt. He was president of the State Agricultural Society from 1886-89, during which time the present grounds were purchased and the fair located permanently on its present site. He was an unsuccessful candidate for Congress in the Eleventh District in 1882, and for Governor in 1889. In 1891 he was nominated for Governor by the Republican party, suffering defeat at the hands of Horace Boies. He was a man of fine presence, strong personality and great energy. Financial reverses limited his usefulness in his latter years, but his career ended as one of the most honorable.

MARK JOSEPH FURRY was born December 25, 1861, at Eldora, Iowa; he died at Alden, Hardin county, August 8, 1909. He was the son of Joseph and Sarah Regina (Stanciliffe) Furry. He was educated in the common schools and at the State College at Ames, from which he received his degree of B. S. in 1881. In 1883 he was admitted to the bar where he attained distinguished success. He was elected to the House of the 28th and 29th General Assemblies. He was the editor of the *Alden Times*, and active in public enterprises of his town and county. Mr. Furry was most conscientious and energetic in all his labors.



SEWELL S. FARWELL was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1834; he died at Monticello, Iowa, September 21, 1909. He was educated in the common schools and at Keene Academy in his native county, and in a school at Cambridge, Ohio. He removed to Jones county, Iowa, in 1852 with his father's family, thence to Pella, engaging in the mercantile business until 1854, when he removed to Clay county, Kansas, residing there until 1859, when he returned to Iowa, locating on a farm near Monticello. He assisted in raising and was made captain of Company H, 31st Iowa Infantry. He served throughout the war, was present at the grand review in Washington, and was mustered out June 27, 1865. Of his company more than half lost their lives in the service. To commemorate the lives of those who enlisted at Monticello, Major Farwell recently presented a monument to the local cemetery. In 1865 he was elected State Senator, serving through the Eleventh and Twelfth General Assemblies. General Grant appointed him assessor of internal revenue, in which place he served for four years, and was then appointed in 1874 as collector of internal revenue, in which capacity he served for six years. He represented the Second Iowa District in Congress following his election in 1880. He was a life-long and active Republican.

MONSIGNORE B. C. LENEHAN was born in New York city, February 3, 1843; he died at Fort Dodge, Iowa, September 21, 1909. His parents removed to Dubuque in 1853 where he received his preparatory education. Later he attended St. Vincent's College, Cape Girardeau, Mo., and St. Francis Theological Seminary at Milwaukee, Wis. He was ordained as a Catholic priest December 8, 1867, by Archbishop Hennessey. His first charge was at McGregor, where he remained five years. He was appointed pastor at Sioux City in 1872, remaining there for fourteen years and doing a remarkable work. He was for a time assigned to Denison, and was later transferred to Boone where he remained for sixteen years. In 1903 he was transferred from Boone to Corpus Christi church, Fort Dodge. He became Vicar-General of the Sioux City diocese in 1902. He was a master of English, a powerful man in every way, as simple in his pretensions amongst the highest honors as when a missionary priest as a mere boy. He was an inspiration to unbeliever, to Protestant and to Catholic alike.

DR. J. M. EMMERT was born in Washington county, Maryland, June 13, 1846; he died at Atlantic, Iowa, July 15, 1909. He was the son of Joshua and Anna G. (Funk) Emmert. He was educated at Mechanicsburg and the Millersville State Normal School of Pennsylvania, and graduated at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1872. He removed to Hamburg, Fremont county, the same year, and on March 16, 1874, removed to Atlantic, Iowa, where his home thereafter remained. He was a delegate to the International Medical Congress in Philadelphia in 1876. He was appointed a member of the State Board of Health in 1892, serving until his resignation in 1898, upon being elected to the State Senate. He was appointed to a membership on the State Board of Parole in 1907, in which office he was serving at the time of his death. He was a successful financier, a loyal, enthusiastic member of the Presbyterian church, and a member of fraternal societies.

CAPT. AARON M. LOOMIS was born in Rodman, Jefferson county, New York, April 30, 1831; he died at Wyoming, Iowa, December 5, 1909. At an early age he removed with his parents to Medina county, Ohio, where he resided until 1856, when he removed to Wyoming, Iowa, engaging in the mercantile business. He enlisted for service in the civil war Aug.<sup>9</sup>, 1862, as a private, but on the 20th of the same month, he was elected second lieutenant of Co. K, Twenty-fourth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. He served under General Grant at the siege of Vicksburg, and on the 11th of June, 1863, was made first lieutenant. He was in the Red River Expedition and with Sherman in the Shenandoah Valley. July 21, 1864, he was promoted to the captaincy of his company, and continued in command until the close of the war and his mustering out in August, 1865. He served as a member of the school board of Wyoming, on the city council, and as mayor. He was also for some time a trustee of Lenox College. In 1895 he was elected to represent Jones county in the Twenty-sixth General Assembly.

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CAROLINE M. MATHEWS, (wife of Governor William M. Stone,) was born in Coshocton, Ohio, about the year 1835; she died at the home of her son, William A. Stone, in Caldwell, Idaho, January 7, 1910. She came to Knoxville, Iowa, with her family in 1855. In 1856 she became the wife of William A. Stone, her father's law partner. During her husband's public career few women in Iowa were better known. Some time after the expiration of Governor Stone's term of office, the family moved to Marshalltown; then back to Knoxville; to Washington, D. C., and finally to Oklahoma City, where Governor Stone died July 17, 1893. She was buried at Knoxville, Iowa, beside her husband.

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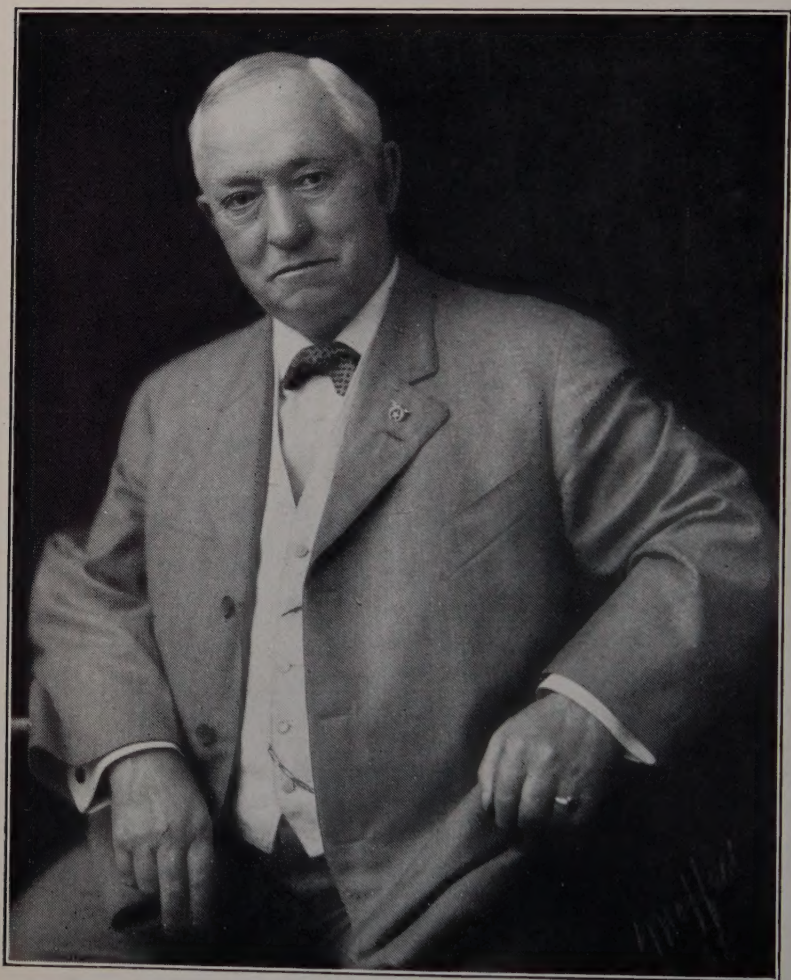
CHARLES W. STEWART was born in Hendricks county, Ind., in 1851; he died at his home near Clive, Iowa, January 15, 1910. He removed to Iowa in 1868. He attended the common schools, and the Baptist College in Des Moines, later graduating from the law department of Simpson College. In 1881 he removed to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where he entered the practice of the law. He had charge of the auditing and insurance departments of Wyoming for seven and one-half years. He returned to Polk county in 1890, engaging in farming and stock raising near Clive. He was elected to the legislature from Polk county, serving in the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth general assemblies.

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WILLIAM I. CHAMBERLAIN was born in Binghampton, New York, March 24, 1846; he died at his home in Wyoming, Iowa, December 10, 1909. He attended the public schools and academy at Binghampton until 1864, when he removed with his parents to Wyoming, Iowa. He studied law and was admitted to the practice in 1870. In 1880 he purchased the Wyoming Journal, which he continued to publish during the remainder of his life. Aside from his work as a lawyer and editor, he held many offices of trust and confidence.







Godfrey